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Japan

Government Decides To Close Baghdad Embassy

OW1001164291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1555 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—The government decided Thursday to close its embassy in Baghdad on Saturday and evacuate Ambassador Kunio Katakura and other embassy personnel, official sources said.

The sources said the closure will be temporary.

Kaifu Postpones ASEAN Tour Due to Gulf Events

OW1001163291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1552 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will put off a planned five-nation trip to Southeast Asia in order to deal with growing tension in the Persian Gulf, government sources said Thursday.

Kaifu, just back from a two-day trip to South Korea, consulted with his senior advisers on whether to go ahead with the trip and officials earlier said he has decided to put off a decision until Friday.

The government sources, however, said Kaifu will put off the trip until a future date. A formal decision will be announced Friday, the sources said.

Kaifu met Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, and other government officials at his official residence immediately after flying back from Seoul Thursday evening.

Officials sought a personal decision from Kaifu on the Southeast Asia trip as tension rapidly mounted in the Persian Gulf following the collapse of talks between the United States and Iraq in Geneva on Wednesday in a last bid to avert war in the region.

Kaifu had originally planned to visit five member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Thailand—from January 13 to 20.

Kaifu was also scheduled to make a major policy announcement during his stay in Thailand on Japan's diplomatic philosophy on the Asia-Pacific region in the post-cold war era.

Another major mission in the Kaifu trip, government sources said, is to sound out the reaction of ASEAN nations to a possible visit by Emperor Akihito to the region.

Meanwhile, Nakayama will cut short a planned trip to Washington to meet Secretary of State James Baker by one day due to the Gulf crisis, a top Foreign Ministry official said.

He will leave Tokyo on Sunday and meet Baker on Monday as originally scheduled, but arrive back in Japan one day earlier than planned January 16, the official said.

Nakayama wants to be back in Tokyo to deal with developments in the Gulf crisis by the deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait of midnight January 15 Eastern Standard Time, or 2 P.M. January 16 Japan Time, according to the official.

Ministry on Baker's 'Pessimistic Assessment'

OW1001125691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Iraq appears to have no intention of leaving Kuwait, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in a message conveyed to Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Thursday.

Foreign Ministry sources said Baker's pessimistic assessment of his talks Wednesday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz were conveyed to Nakayama through U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost, who met Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama.

The sources quoted Baker's message as saying that in his talks with 'Aziz he firmly demanded Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait by January 15, the deadline set by the UN Security Council, or face the possibility of eviction by multinational forces.

But 'Aziz said nothing that would indicate Baghdad plans to abide by Security Council resolutions calling for its withdrawal from Kuwait, the message said.

Earlier in the day, Armacost met Defense Agency Director General Yukihiko Ikeda and urged Japan's full support of the U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf saying Washington may be forced to make a "tough decision" in the wake of the failed talks.

Officials said he also urged Japan to make a "visible" contribution to facilitate a resolution of the Gulf crisis, but added that Japan's role is something that it must decide for itself.

Kuriyama was quoted as telling Armacost that Japan will do its best to support the efforts of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis, namely convincing Iraq of the need to leave Kuwait.

Kuriyama also said the Government will be considering what Japan can do on its own initiative to supplement those peace efforts when Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu meets key cabinet ministers Thursday evening.

Kaifu is expected to consider a list of options prepared by the Foreign Ministry, the sources said.

The sources said that Armacost made no request in his meeting with Kuriyama for Japan to increase its level of financial support for the U.S.-led multinational forces massed in Saudi Arabia and other areas of the region.

Japan has pledged 2 billion U.S. dollars in support for the multinational forces and another 2 billion dollars in aid for the so-called frontline states in the Middle East whose economies have been adversely affected by the crisis.

Foreign Minister's Visit to U.S. Previewed

Visit Cut Short

OW1001143791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will cut his planned trip to Washington to meet Secretary of State James Baker one day short due to the Persian Gulf crisis, a top Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

Nakayama will leave January 13 and meet Baker on January 14 as originally scheduled, but arrive back in Japan one day earlier than planned, on January 16, the official said.

Nakayama wants to be back in Tokyo to cope with developments in the Gulf crisis by the deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait of January 15 Washington time, or January 16 Japan time, according to the official.

Nakayama and Baker are expected to discuss the Gulf crisis and Japan's pledge to increase its share of the costs of maintaining U.S. troops in Japan.

Nakayama is also likely to meet U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, as well as with other Bush administration officials and members of Congress.

Nakayama To Urge Peace

OW1101090991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Friday that he will urge upon U.S. Secretary of State James Baker the need for continued efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

Nakayama will leave for Washington on Sunday and stay there until next Wednesday. He meets Baker on Sunday.

Nakayama told reporters that he would stress to U.S. officials the need to continue making efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, Nakayama will tell Baker that Japan will support the U.S. whether war breaks out or not, and would consider positively any U.S. requests for additional assistance.

The Nakayama-Baker meeting will take place one day before the UN Security Council deadline for Iraq to pull its troops from Kuwait.

Nakayama To Stress Rice Stand

OW1101075991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Friday he will reiterate Japan's stance against rice import liberalization when he meets with U.S. officials in Washington this weekend, according to government sources.

Nakayama meets with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills on Sunday.

The sources said he made the comment in a meeting with Eiichi Nakao, the minister of international trade and industry, and Motoji Kondo, the minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

The three agreed he should stress in his meetings in Washington that a compromise plan on a cut in agricultural protection put forward in the Uruguay Round of Trade Talks in Brussels last month was not acceptable to agricultural importing countries.

The trade round, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), was due to have been concluded at the Brussels meeting.

Nakayama will tell the U.S. officials that Japan would be prepared to discuss cutting farm subsidies, the sticking point in the Brussels talks, but will insist that the need for food security be taken into account, the sources said. The proposal was put forward by the chairman of a GATT's farm trade panel.

Nakayama 'Strongly' Demands Iraqi Withdrawal

OW1101044991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Nakayama this morning called in Iraqi Ambassador to Japan al-Rifal to the Foreign Ministry. In the meeting with the Iraqi ambassador, Foreign Minister Nakayama strongly demanded anew that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait by 15 January this month to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully.

Foreign Minister Nakayama, at a news conference held after a cabinet meeting this morning, said that Japan hopes to defuse the Gulf crisis and stressed that the international community and UN General Secretary Perez de Cuellar should make last-minute efforts to that end.

After the news conference, Foreign Minister Nakayama called Iraqi Ambassador to Japan al-Rifal in to the Foreign Ministry. In the meeting, Foreign Minister Nakayama said that the consensus of the international community is that the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait should not be recognized and demanded that Iraq pull out of Kuwait by 15 January—a deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait—in compliance with the UN resolution. Thus, the foreign minister strongly demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait as soon as possible to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully.

Ministry Reports Departure of Citizens From Gulf

OW1101060091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Embassy reports indicate that hundreds of Japanese citizens will leave the Persian Gulf before the January 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

The ministry has recommended that Japanese residents in the Gulf region leave. Tuesday and Wednesday 72 Japanese left the eastern states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, the officials said.

A total of 1,154 Japanese, mostly businessmen and their families, still remain in the Gulf region, the officials said.

If U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace efforts fail, several hundred Japanese are expected to leave the region in a short period to avoid a possible war between Iraq and a multinational force in Saudi Arabia, the officals said.

Socialist Party Leader Confirms Baghdad Visit

AU1101115391 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Paris, Jan 11 (AFP)—The leader of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Takako Doi, confirmed here Friday that she would travel to Baghdad in defiance of the Japanese Government's displeasure at the visit. Ms. Doi, who has asked to meet Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in a bid to avert an armed conflict in the Gulf, leaves for Baghdad on Saturday and plans to stay until Monday, a day before the U.N. deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait expires. Her secretariat confirmed here that the visit would go ahead as planned.

The Japanese Government has voiced its annoyance at the timing of Ms. Doi's visit. "We have explained that the situation was not favourable for the planned visit," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe said in Tokyo Friday. "It is a problem for us," he said, stressing that the situation in the Gulf was currently "in a critical stage of development."

Japan has advised its nationals to leave the Gulf.

Ms. Doi, whose delegation of six includes the JSP vice-president Ms. Manae Kubota, praised French President Francois Mitterrand's commitment to avoiding war in the Gulf after they met here. Ms. Doi said she was "very impressed by the passion" with which Mr. Mitterrand was trying to find a solution to the crisis.

"I told him: Continue, we are with you," she said after a one- hour meeting at the presidential Elysee Palace on Thursday. He had stressed his determination to continue to find a solution despite the difficulties, she said.

Mr. Mitterrand has said France will strive for a solution to the crisis right up to the January 15 deadline, after which the U.N. has sanctioned force to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

If Ms. Doi were to meet President Husayn, she would ask him to respect United Nations resolutions and withdraw his forces from Kuwait, party sources said in Tokyo before her departure. Ms. Doi is being accompanied by some 50 journalists.

Their arrival in Baghdad will coincide with that of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, on a last ditch mission to avoid war.

EC Expresses Interest in Nakasone Peace Plan

OW1001211091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The European Community (EC) has shown great interest in a peace plan for the Persian Gulf crisis proposed by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, a former cabinet minister said Thursday.

According to Bunsei Sato, former posts and telecommunications minister, Jean Pierre Leng, the head of the European Communities Commission's delegation in Tokyo, visited him at his office and asked for a briefing on the peace initiative at the request of EC Commission President Jacques Delors.

Sato, a senior member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), conveyed Nakasone's peace plan to Iraqi leaders, including Deputy Prime Minister Yasin Ramadan, when he visited Baghdad in late December.

After returning to Japan on January 5, Sato told reporters that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz reacted positively to the plan.

In the seven-point peace initiative, Nakasone proposed that the waters surrounding Warba and Bubiyan islands, which control Iraq's access to the Persian Gulf, be internationalized on condition that Iraq withdraws its troops from Kuwait.

The former prime minister also proposed an international conference, including the nations concerned and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, on the Middle East problem.

Leng was quoted as saying EC representatives and 'Aziz may meet in Algiers in a last-ditch effort to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Trade Minister, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Oil

OW1101115391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost called Friday for Japan's cooperation in international measures to cope with a possible oil crisis if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, government officials said.

Armacost made the remarks while paying a call on new International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao, ministry officials said.

The International Energy Agency was scheduled to hold a meeting in Paris on Friday to discuss measures to stabilize the supply- demand balance in the world crude oil market, the officials said.

Nakao told the ambassador that Japan will handle the problem in close consultation with the United States.

Armacost also expressed hopes that Japan will display leadership in salvaging the faltering multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the officials said.

Nakao assured him that Japan will do everything it can to bring the Uruguay Round of Trade talks to a successful end, they said.

Agriculture Minister, U.S. Ambassador Meet

OW1101110991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost called on the Japanese Government Friday to take the initiative and make some sort of effort to liberalize its rice market.

It would be hard to make an exception for rice if new rules liberalizing world farm trade are reached at the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Talks, he said during a visit with Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Motoji Kondo.

But Kondo said that since rice is a staple food in Japan, it must be considered an exception.

He also pointed to Japan's 48 percent self-sufficiency ratio in food products, which makes it the biggest food importer in the world, as another reason why the country's rice market should remain closed.

Japan's decision to liberalize its beef and orange markets represents a major sacrifice by the country's agricultural sector, he said.

"Americans believe that Japanese markets are closed, without realizing that Japan is the U.S.'s biggest customer of farm products," Kondo said.

He asked Armacost to help correct that misperception.

The Uruguay Round trade talks, which failed to reach agreement by a December deadline because of disagreement over subsidies and restrictions on farm trade, are due to resume January 15 in Brussels.

U.S. Aviation Talks Produce 'Little Progress'

OW1001144291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Japan-U.S. aviation talks produced little progress Thursday, as Japan rejected demands from three U.S. airlines and one air cargo operator for revision of their flight hours, government sources said.

The talks will continue on Friday and thereafter between the Transport Ministry and officials from United Parcel Service, a package and postal delivery company, American Airlines, United Airlines (UAL), and Delta Air Lines.

The U.S. companies have requested the Japanese Government to move their slots at New Tokyo International Airport in Narita to peak time, a demand the ministry sees as physically impossible given the already difficult capacity situation at the airport.

The ministry's rejection, however, is apparently in response to U.S. denials of permission for Japan Airlines and Nippon Cargo Airlines to operate cargo flights to Chicago.

The ministry has already informed UAL that it will not be allowed to operate its Narita-Chicago route after January 17 if Washington withholds permission for the Japanese airlines to fly to Chicago.

Government 'Concerned' About USSR Situation

OW1101100791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0930 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Japan is concerned about the deteriorating situation in Lithuania and other breakaway Soviet republics, Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said Friday.

"The Government of Japan is watching developments with concern," Watanabe said in a meeting with foreign correspondents.

Watanabe cautioned the central Soviet Government in Moscow and the troubled republics against "resorting to arms" and urged them to resolve their difference through negotiations.

The Kremlin decided Monday to send paratroopers to enforce the military draft in seven secessionist republics—Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Armenia, Georgia, Moldavia, and the Ukraine.

The move also drew a U.S. message of concern, with the White House calling it "a serious step toward escalation of tension within the USSR."

While the Japanese message did not directly pass judgement on the Kremlin's dispatch of troops, a Foreign Ministry source called it a cause for Japanese concern.

But the source disputed the view in some quarters that it shows Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's Perestroyka and "new thinking" have reached a dead-end and that he is now breathing new life back into the traditional sources of power in the Soviet Union, such as the KGB and the military.

Soviet Union To Sign POW Pact in April

OW1001190191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tsuruoka, Yamagata Pref., Jan. 10 KYODO—The Soviet Union will sign an agreement with Japan in April to provide documents and personal belongings of Japanese prisoners of war held mainly in Siberia and used as forced labor after the end of World War II, the leader of a Soviet-Japan friendship group said Thursday.

Aleksey Kirichenko, chairman of the Soviet-Japan Mutual Understanding Association, said at a news conference that the signing of the government-level agreement will take place when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits Japan in April.

In early December, Kirichenko's group signed an agreement with the private All-Japan Former Internees Association promising to turn over documents on some 600,000 Japanese POWs to the Tsuruoka-based organization and handed over an initial list of 1,444 dead Japanese POWs. Of the total Japanese POWs, some 60,000 are believed to have died while engaged in forced labor in Siberia.

The Japanese Government, however, has strongly demanded that the documents on Japanese POWs be released through government channels based on a government-level bilateral agreement.

Kirichenko, who is also director of the International Cooperation Department of the Oriental Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said that the contents of the agreement to be signed in April will be almost the same in content as the private-level pact.

After arriving in Tokyo on Wednesday, Kirichenko said that Gorbachev will bring lists of 38,000 deceased Japanese POWs when he visits Japan in April.

Kirichenko is scheduled to stay in the northern Japanese city of Tsuruoka with a Soviet TV crew until January 21 in order to film a special program on Japanese POWs.

Kaifu Issues Orders To End Fingerprinting System

OW1101094391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday instructed cabinet ministers concerned to make every effort to abolish the system of compulsory fingerprinting of South Korean residents of Japan within the next two years, government officials said.

Kaifu gave the order to Justice Minister Megumu Sato, Home Affairs Minister Akira Fukida, and Education Minister Yutaka Inoue after a cabinet meeting in the morning.

The prime minister also asked the ministers to make earnest efforts to improve the legal status of South Korean residents of Japan, including allowing them public service job opportunities, according to the officials.

Kaifu returned Thursday from a two-day meeting with South Korean President No Tae-u in Seoul, where the two sides signed a memorandum in which Japan promised to abolish the fingerprinting of its South Korean residents within the next two years.

At present, all foreigners aged 16 or over living in Japan for more than a year must be fingerprinted for the alien registration certificates they are required to carry with them at all times.

There are 680,000 Korean residents in Japan, by far the country's largest foreign community. Many of them are descendants of Koreans who were taken to Japan during World War II as forced labor.

Referring to the proposed abolishment of the fingerprinting system, Justice Minister Sato told reporters that priority should be given to revising the Alien Registration Law.

The comprehensive memorandum signed between Japan and South Korea also commits Japan to open local government jobs to Korean residents, and allow them to be employed as lecturers in public primary and high schools.

Education Minister Inoue told reporters that the ministry will instruct all local governments by February to allow foreign residents in Japan, including South Koreans, to apply for positions as lecturers at public schools.

Such lecturers will have shorter contracts and less pay than regular teachers but will have equal treatment with other foreign lecturers, according to the Education Ministry.

Home Affairs Minister Fukida said his ministry plans to increase job opportunities in local government for Koreans, including such posts as medical technicians.

Korean Community Reacts

OW1001210891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1007 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The Government's official commitment to abolish fingerprinting for Korean residents in Japan announced Thursday in Seoul drew a mixed reaction from the Korean community in Japan.

Mindan, the pro-Seoul Korean residents union in Japan, said the memorandum signed by Japanese and South Korean foreign ministers Taro Nakayama and Yi Sang-ok in Seoul marks a "watershed" and a turning point for a new chapter in bilateral relations.

The pact, however, drew criticism from other Koreans in Japan, who said it would do little to end discrimination in electoral rights, education, and employment.

The pro-Pyongyang organization Chongryun, or General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, said in a statement, "The waiving of the fingerprinting requirement has not addressed the fundamental issues of the legal status of Koreans in Japan."

The association charged that a proposed family registry system which the Japanese Government says it plans to use in place of fingerprinting, is a "disguise" for stepped-up government surveillance of Koreans in Japan.

Chongryun also criticized the government for leaving untouched the requirement that Koreans must carry their alien registration certificate with them at all times.

This sentiment was shared by various Korean residents interviewed by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

So Shugetsu, 46, a poet living in Osaka, said the issue of Korean residents was used as a "souvenir" to produce some kind of achievement in Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's trip to Seoul without resolving what she called Japan's "apartheid" system.

Han Chong-suk, 61, the first Korean resident in Japan to openly defy the Government by refusing to be fingerprinted, said Japan must grant Korean residents the same basic rights as Japanese citizens, such as the right to participate in politics, and should support ethnic education of Koreans if it wants to atone for its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

There are 680,000 Korean residents in Japan, many of them descendants of Koreans who were drafted during World War II and sent to Japan to work in mines and factories.

Ko Chan-yu, editor of a pro-Pyongyang magazine in Osaka, called the Seoul agreement a "window-dressing exercise."

He said Japan must apologize and provide compensation to the relatives of Korean draftees who died during the war, Korean victims of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and discrimination against Korean residents loyal to North Korea.

Soji Takasaki, a Japanese historian and associate professor of Tsuda College, urged the Diet, Japan's Parliament, to adopt a resolution apologizing to all Koreans, and the Government to open ways for resident Koreans to be hired as public servants so that the private sector would follow the example.

Central Bank Governor Says No Policy Change

OW0901091591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0739 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday the central bank plans no change in its monetary stance and will continue to monitor the effect of the past credit tightening.

Speaking at a regular press conference, Mieno said the continued tight credit policy is warranted partly by the heating economy and the lingering uncertainty over the Persian Gulf crisis, which might rekindle inflationary concern among consumers and corporations.

"We will see to it that the tight labor and product markets and the Gulf crisis will not upset the now calm psychology about prices among businesses and consumers," he said.

Mieno also said that despite the ambiguous impact from future developments in the Gulf crisis, the Japanese economy will remain in good shape through 1991, driven by personal and corporate spending, the two main locomotives for the current economic boom.

"Given the present strength, I believe a major economic downturn will not occur," he said.

Mieno also welcomed the modest slowdown in economic growth now forecast by the government and private research groups, saying that slower growth will help keep the economy buoyant longer.

Asked about the recent downswing of the yen's value against the U.S. dollar, Mieno said the move has been prompted by mounting worries about a possible war in the Persian Gulf ahead of the January 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

But Mieno said the yen-dollar rate should reflect the fundamentals of both economies.

Ignoring the growing ailments of the U.S. economy, investors rushed to the dollar, which is regarded as safe haven to hold during international turmoil [words indistinct].

"I don't think that this will touch off a similar crisis among Japanese banks," he said, reasoning that the environment in economically healthy Japan is far different from that in the United States, which is now in a recession.

Admitting that the slump in the Tokyo stock market and other factors compound to pressure domestic bankers, the central bank chief also called for sounder management by bankers through reduced risky lending and expansion of their capital bases.

Commenting on reports of an imminent meeting among the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations, Mieno said the meeting is likely around January 20-21, as reported by the press.

The G-7 nations are made up of the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada.

But he said he does not know what will be discussed at the gathering, though many reports predict the Gulf crisis and financial assistance to the Soviet Union will be high on the agenda.

Government To Loan Sri Lanka 38 Billion Yen

OW0801072091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0431 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 8 KYODO—The government will provide a total 38,353 million yen in financial assistance to Sri Lanka to ease the country's economic problems stemming from the Persian Gulf crisis, government officials said Tuesday.

The governments of both countries exchanged notes on the yen loan the same day, the officials said.

Of the credit, 13.1 billion yen will be used for economic restructuring of the South Asian country, with the remaining sum earmarked for telecommunications maintenance, port expansion, and other projects.

Credit for the sum allowed for economic restructuring will expire in 25 years with a grace period of seven years; while the term of the project loan is set at 30 years, with a 10 year grace period, officials said.

Sri Lanka's economy has foundered under the weight of rising crude oil prices resulting from the Gulf Crisis which has been steadily eroding its balance of payments.

Toyota Institute Develops High-Temperature IC

OW1001180791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1357 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Nagoya, Jan. 10 KYODO—The Toyota Technological Institute on Thursday announced the development of a silicon integrated circuit (IC) capable of functioning normally even at temperatures as high as 370 C.

Masatoshi Migitaka, professor of large scale integration (LSI) system engineering at the institute, said it is the first time in the world that such a high-temperature silicon IC has been developed.

The professor, whose research team has achieved the breakthrough, said the newly-developed IC will probably find applications very soon in the high-temperature portions of cars and planes.

He said the achievement would pave the way for the development of high-fidelity sensor and control circuits for use in space rockets, nuclear reactors, and geothermal power generators.

Migitaka said he believes that there would be considerable U.S. military demand for the new ICs, though there are some hurdles to be cleared.

Common ICs are not very resistant to high temperatures and are considered to function normally at temperatures up to 120 C.

Migitaka said the newly-developed IC is a heavily arsenic- and boron-doped type of unique structure. He said a new chip production method has been developed by combining such heavy arsenic and boron doping technology and integrated injection logic (IIL) technology.

IIL technology is the method of designing and constructing logical circuits on an integrated circuit to provide low power consumption with medium speed gates.

The new method prevents the leakage of electricity from ICs even at high temperatures, thereby stopping them from malfunctioning at such temperatures, the professor said.

He said his research team has confirmed through a series of experiments that the new IC functioned normally even at temperatures up to 370 C.

In theory, the new IC could function normally up to 450 C., he said.

Technical Agreement With U.S. on Chips Signed

OW1001143591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0905 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—NKK Corp. said Thursday it has concluded a technical cooperative agreement with Paradigm Technology Inc. of the United States for developing and marketing the latter's high speed static random access memory (SRAM) chips in Japan.

The technical agreement is aimed at introducing Paradigm's high-speed 256-kilobit and 1-megabit SRAM technology in the Japanese market and joint development of a 4-megabit device, NKK officials said.

Under the agreement, NKK has purchased a 10 percent equity stake, amounting to 680 million yen, in the U.S. semiconductor firm. It has also paid an additional 816 million yen to use Paradigm's 256- kilobit and 1-megabit SRAM technology, the officials said.

Paradigm is a leading U.S. maker of complementary metal oxide semiconductors, concentrating on SRAM chips and 5-inch wafers.

SRAM chips can retain information longer and have faster access time that the more widely used dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips.

The officials said their technical relationship will contribute to NKK's product development and production technology for its Electronics Device Research Center in Ayase, Kanagawa Prefecture, which is scheduled to be completed in the Autumn of 1992.

The center plans to use 0.4-0.8 micron photo-etching technology to develop, test, and evaluate such chips as application specific integrated circuits (ASICs) in the future, they said.

A micron is one-thousandth of a millimeter.

NTT To Develop High-Speed Switching System

OW0901135491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 9 KYODO—Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. [NTT] said Wednesday it will jointly develop a next generation high speed switching system with nine Japanese and foreign firms.

The two main components to be developed will constitute the main part of a Broadband Integrated Services Digital Network or B-ISDN, and make possible multimedia communications combining image, voice, and data transmission, the company said.

One of the components, an asynchronous transfer node system, will play a role in the B-ISDN similar to that of conventional telephone switches.

The other component, an ATM link system, plays a role similar to that of a conventional transmission system in the B-ISDN.

The B-ISDN will be capable of handling high quality image transmission, including high definition television broadcasting, NTT said.

The foreign partners, selected for the project through the company's procurement procedures, are American Telephone and Telegraph International and Northern Telecom Inc., both of the United States, and Siemens AG of Germany.

The Japanese partners are Fujitsu Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., NEC Corp., Oki Electric Industry Co., Toshiba Corp., and Mitsubishi Electric Corp.

NTT said AT and T International, Fujitsu, Hitachi, Mitsubishi Electric, NEC, and Siemens were selected for joint development of the ATM link system.

NTT said it plans to inaugurate B-ISDN commercial services during its 1996 business year, beginning April 1, 1995.

Reportage on Hashimoto's Visit to PRC

WA1011131791

For reportage on Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's visit to the PRC, including talks with PRC Premier Li Peng and state councillors, see the Northeast Asia section of the 8 January China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Mongolia

Foreign Minister Gives Policy Briefing

OW1101045091 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1446 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Jan (MONTSAME)—The Press Center for Mongolian and foreign journalists opened today at Ministry of External Relations Building.

The Press Center began its operations with Minister of External Relations Gombosuren's meeting with press representatives. In his speech at the Press Center, the minister touched upon the basic directions of the MPR's [Mongolian Peoples Republic]'s foreign policy—the development of relations with the Soviet Union, PRC, Asian countries, developing nations, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and East European countries.

Speaking on relations with East European countries, T. Gombosuren said that earlier arrangements with these countries were realized in 1990. Today, however, there is an absence of finalized arrangements for the further development of relations with the former socialist governments. This is neither our fault nor their fault. The past year has been full of concern about internal restructuring in both our states. Each strove, first, to mend the relationships with their main partners.

The minister emphasized the new, improving relations with the USSR, PRC, and United States.

Byambasuren Greets New Polish Prime Minister

OW1101025091 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1458 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Jan (MONTSAME)—Dashjiyn Byambasuren, Prime Minister of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Government, has congratulated Jan Krzysztof Bielecki on his appointment to the post of chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland.

Party-Sponsored Company's Work Reviewed

OW1101064391 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1452 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Jan (MONTSAME)—There are 1,800 cooperatives and 30 different types of firms operating in the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] at present. One of which is a firm called "Maral-Orion," operating under the sponsorship of the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee.

"Maral" is concerned with the establishment of small enterprises and workshops in the manufacture of building materials and consumer goods. The firm maintains business connections with similar organizations in the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Germany, China, and South

Korea. It plans in time to supply some of its products to them, and to receive modern techniques and technology from them.

North Korea

Pyongyang Protests South's Boat Intrusion

SK1101092391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0851 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] On 11 January, the South Korean puppets perpetrated the military provocation of illegally infiltrating unidentified boats into the territorial waters of our side in the West Sea.

At around 1347 today, the South Korean puppets openly infiltrated two unidentified boats from the direction of Taechong Island into the territorial waters of our side off the Ongjin peninsula in the West Sea in broad daylight.

When a naval patrol ship of the Korean People's Army, which was performing routine maritime guard duty defending the sea station of the socialist fatherland, advanced to that point, the unidentified boats hurriedly fled in the direction of the Taechong Island.

This is the South Korean puppets' wanton violation of the armistice agreement and their deliberate provocation maneuver to aggravate the strained situation on the Korean peninsula.

Hanminjon Supports Reunification Proposal

SK0901052191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—We the people in the South fully support the way of national reunification by confederation laid down by President Kim Il-song in his new year address and unconditionally welcome the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo, its concrete form.

Hong Chi-yong, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon), said this in a statement released on January 6, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

Hong Chi-yong said:

The new year address is a reunification programme run through with the reunification will and irrefutable logic of President Kim Il-song, a reunification political science each word and phrase of which are filled with his magnanimity and generosity to embrace all the members of the nation in his bosom without discrimination and stand them on the platform of reunification and a milestone which indicates the direction and road of the reunification movement in the 90's.

What is important in hastening the national reunification at the moment is to define the way of the reunification of the country. The only way of reunification, most reasonable and realistic, today when different ideas and systems exist in the North and the South, is to establish a unified state by means of confederation on the basis of one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

The estalishment of a unified state through confederation is a nationwide agreement and general will of the nation and a great principle of defining the way of national reunification which is most suitable to the present reality.

The "theory of unifying systems" by the method of "amalgamation through absorption" asserted by the present South Korean rulers is an unpardonable concept for a permanent division and megalomania to cover the sunlight with a palm.

1991 must be a leaping "year of reunification".

Hanminjon declares that the entire people in the South will powerfully advance to greet the day when the cheers of reunification will reverberate from Hanna to Paekdu, and from Paekdu to Hanna, upholding the new year address of President Kim Il-song.

Trade Union Leader Urges Nonaggression Acceptance

SK0801030491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must respond to adopting a nonaggression declaration, said Won Tong-ku, chairman of the C.C., the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, in a statement issued to the press Sunday.

Expressing full support to the new national reunification proposal advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his new year address for this year, Won Tong-ku said:

It is of particular importance that the great leader underlined it as a most urgent task, which should be carried out before anything else in hastening reunification of the country, to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and create peaceful preconditions for national reunification.

On the Korean peninsula fraught with the potential danger of a nuclear war peace is a matter of vital importance related to the destiny of the nation and a pressing issue which stands out as the top priority in the solution mf the question of national reunification.

To adopt a nonaggression declaration is a starting point and an urgent task in removing distrust and confrontation between the North and the South and in opening up a new phase for peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

I hold that the South Korean authorities should not try to evade the question of removing military confrontation but unhesitatingly respond to the adoption of a nonaggression declaration and stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises with outside forces against the fellow countrymen.

And I strongly demand that the United States, too, renounce its anachronistic war policy, sign a DPRK-U.S. peace agreement and withdraw its forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea as soon as possible.

He expressed the belief that labour movement organizations and workers in South Korea would join the working class in the northern half of the country in a grand march towards reunification in order to make this year a historical year of opening a new phase for national reunification.

Deputy Defense Minister Arrives in Pyongyang

LD1001110191 Moscow TASS in English 1035 GMT 10 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Nadashkevich]

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 TASS—A Soviet military delegation, headed by Soviet First Deputy Defence Minister Konstantin Kochetov, arrived here today on a five-day official visit.

The Soviet military officials will familiarise themselves with the life and military training of servicemen in the North Korean Army.

Further on Soviet Military Group

SK1001113991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—A military delegation of the Soviet Union headed by General K. Kochetov, first vice-minister of defence, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Choe Kwang, General of the KPA Kim Kwang-chin and Charge d'Affaires Ad Interim of the Soviet Embassy here Boris Morozov.

A welcome ceremony for the delegation took place there.

Choe Kwang Attends Party for Soviet Delegation

SK1101053091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces gave a party for the visiting Soviet military delegation Thursday evening.

The members of the delegation headed by General K. Kochetov, first vice-minister of defence, and charge d'affaires ad interim of the Soviet Embassy here Boris Morozov were invited.

Present were Comrade Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, KPA General Kim Kwang-chin, Colonel General Chon Chae-son and other generals and officers.

Speeches were exchanged at the party.

Kim Il-song Receives Cuban Economic Group

SK1001113891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received today the visiting Cuban Government economic delegation headed by Ernesto Melendez Bachs, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon, Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song-nam and Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He was presented with a gift by the guests.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift

SK1001114091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] January 10 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the visiting Cuban Government economic delegation.

The gift was handed to an official concerned by head of delegation Ernesto Melendez Bachs, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Kim Tal-hyon Meets Delegation

SK1001051491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Kim Tal-hyon met and had a friendly conversation with the visiting Cuban Government economic delegation led by Ernesto Melendez Bachs, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on January 9.

Present there were Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs, Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials.

The head of the Cuban delegation said that while touring Pyongyang and local areas, he came to know well about the achievements of the heroic Korean people.

I am convinced that although the present situation is very complex, the two countries can repulse the moves of the imperialists and advance forever along the road of socialism if they further develop friendly and cooperative relations, he stressed.

Politburo Members Attend Banquet

SK0601105591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 6 (KCNA)—Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban Ambassador to Korea, arranged a banquet Saturday at the Ongnyu Restaurant on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

Present on invitation were Vice-premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang who are members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, secretary of the WPK Central Committee Kim Yong-sun and Vice-premier Kim Tal-hyon.

Diplomatic envoys of different countries here were also invited.

The banquet was addressed by Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega.

He said that under the leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro the Cuban people put an end to the Batista dictatorial regime at the cost of their arduous struggle and sacrifice and opened the road of the first socialist revolution in the Western hemisphere 32 years ago.

The United States and the South Korean authorities have built a disgraceful wall, bisected the Korean peninsula and converted southern land into a military base with nuclear weapons in store, he pointed out. Referring in detail to the Gulf situation, he condemned the United States' interference and aggression manoeuvres.

Cuba has resolutely supported the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea for 32 years after the victory of its revolution, he said, and continued: We express full support to all the measures taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for national reunification, the desire of the entire Korean people.

He said he is convinced that the friendly relations between Cuba and Korea will further strengthen on the basis of defending socialism and revolutionary idea and on the basis of intimacy between supreme commander Comrade Fidel Castro and the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

He expressed special thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il song and to the party and government of Korea for fraternity and solidarity with the Cuban revolution in the past 32 years.

Kim Yong-nam spoke next.

The revolutionaries and people of Cuba overturned the Batista pro-American dictatorial regime and won the victory of the revolution on January 1, 1959 through their bloody struggle under the command of Comrade Fidel Castro, their outstanding leader, he said, and went on: The victory of the Cuban revolution was a historical event which not only opened the broad rtad to socialism for the Cuban people but also brought an important turning point in the history of the national liberation struggle of the Latin American people.

The Cuban people have traversed the proud road of victory shining with fats, fully displaying indomitable fighting spirit and heroic stamina and firmly defended the gains of the revolution, sternly smashing the continued aggression and blockade moves of the U.S. imperialists at every step for the past 32 years after the victory of the revolution.

Pointing to the friendly relations between the two countries, he said that the true friendship between Korea and Cuba is daily efflorescing and developing with a great vitality thanks to the special intimacy between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro, the supreme leader of the Cuban revolution.

The two peoples who have shared the same destiny as true revolutionary comrades-in-arms and class brothers under the red banner of socialism will fight together shoulder to shoulder for ever and win victory, he stressed.

Kim Receives Greetings From Koreans in Japan

SK0401090291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—The great leader Marshal Kim Il-song received messages of new year greetings from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Standing Council of the Central Educational Association of Koreans in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Scientists and Technicians in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Literary Men and Artists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, and other organizations under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), their affiliated organizations, the CHOSON SINBO, the Korean News Service, the Kuwol Sobang Publishing House, the Kumgangsan opera troupe, the Korea-Japan Export and Import Corporation, the Tonghae Trading Company, Ltd., the Kumgang Insurance Company, Ltd. And other organs, the local headquarters of Chongnyon, Choson University and Korean schools at all levels in Japan and Koreans of different strata in Japan.

The messages noted that signal achievements were made last year in socialist construction in the motherland and a brilliant chapter was recorded in the movement of national reunification under the wise guidance of the great leader.

The messages expressed the resolution of the Koreans in Japan to devotedly take part in the patriotic work of Chongnon, bearing deep in mind the pride of having the great leader and the confidence in socialism.

They sincerely wished Marshal Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Kim Exchanges New Year Cards With Leaders

SK0401115991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged new year's cards with foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of the New Year 1991.

He exchanged them with Souphanouvong, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Phoumi Vongvichit, politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the C.C., the Lao front for national construction; Ranasinghe Premadasa, president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and Kenneth David Kaunda, president of the Republic of Zambia.

And he received new year's cards from Mathieu Kerekou, president and head of state of the Republic of Benin, and from the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua.

Kim Il-song Receives New Year Greetings

SK0801045191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)— The great leader President Kim Il-song received messages of greetings on the new year 1991 from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran; President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire; Moussa Traore, general secretary of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Republic of Mali; Chairman Ludo Martens of the Central Committee of the Belgian Labour Party; Chairman Preben Moller Hansen of the Danish Workers' Party, Common Cause; National Chairman Gus Hall of the Communist Party of the United States of America.

They warmly congratulated President Kim Il-song on the new year and wished him good health and a long life.

KCNA Reviews 11 Jan Pyongyang Press

SK1101055591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received a government economic delegation of the Republic of Cuba and a report that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by the delegation.

It is reported in the press that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged new year's cards with foreign party and state leaders.

Foreign media reported the New Year address of President Kim Il-song, and CNN Television of the United States broadcast the new year gathering of Pyongyang school children held in the presence of President Kim Il-song, says NODONG SINMUN.

Remaining in the limelight of the press are accounts of meetings held in provincial seats to carry through tasks set forth by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Papers allocate much space to home and foreign public voices supporting the new proposal of national reunification put forward by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The press deals with the new upsurge effected by the working people across the country in all sectors of the national economy under the leadership of the party.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article titled "The Chuche Idea Is the Ideological Basis of the Invincible Vitality and Solidity of our Socialism". Under the title "The Chuche Idea Is a Great Revolutionary Doctrine Indicating the Path Ahead of Mankind", [punctuation as received] the paper conveys what foreign public figures said in praise of the chuche idea.

"Basis of Solidity of our Socialism" is the title of an article of MINJU CHOSON.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the Egyptian president visited the DPRK wing of the 23rd Cairo international book fair.

The press reports that an agreement on economic and technological cooperation in the construction of hydroelectric power stations was signed between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cuba.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON come out with articles explaining the new proposal of national reunification indicated in the New Year address.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the South Korean magazine CHUGAN CHOSON exposed the crimes committed by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong- pil, political prostitutes.

Accusing the South Korean side of behaving so haughtily as refusing to take over our letter to the authorities and representatives of all the political parties and organizations of South Korea which was adopted at a joint meeting of representatives of the DPRK Government, political parties and organizations to carry into practice the proposal for the convocation of a political consultative conference for national reunification, the daily demands that the South Korean authorities respond to our proposal at an early date.

MINJU CHOSON comments on a group assault by U.S. imperialist aggression army soldiers on South Korean women.

Conveyed in the press are world public voices exposing the South Korean puppets' moves against dialogue and reunification.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the ZHONGGUO QINGNIANBAO commented on the "cabinet reshuffle" by No Tae-u.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged provocative joint aerial war exercises, says the press.

It is reported in the press that Comrade Fidel Castro said a monument must be erected to commemorate the "special period of peacetime" in Cuba, the former Tanzanian president rejected the Western style "democracy", the head of the state of Ghana called for increasing self-support, prices are jumping in Czechoslovakia and the food prices soared sharply in Lithuania, the Soviet Union.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article headlined "Acute Confrontation and Struggle Between Socialism and Imperialism, Between Progress and Reaction" and MINJU CHOSON an article titled "Anti-War, Anti-Nuclear, Disarmament Are Requirements of Times".

NODONG SINMUN observes the 45th anniversary of the proclamation of the republic in Albania.

Papers deal with the tense situation in the Gulf.

Non-Paddy Fields Receive New Humus Soil

SK1101111591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 11 Jan 91

["Korean Rural Areas Aboil With Soil Carpeting"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—Carpeting of non-paddy fields with humus soil is in full swing in rural communities of Korea.

According to data available at the Agricultural Commission, over 291,000 hectares of arable land had been carpeted with humus soil as of January 9, taking the country as a whole.

Entering the new year, 69,000 hectares of non-paddy fields have been carpeted with new soil.

Some ten cities and counties including Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, Wonsan, Kangwon Province, Sinuiju, North Pyongan Province, and Pujon County, South Hamgyong Province have already finished their soil carpeting plans.

Soil carpeting has been carried out 70 percent of the planned area in South Pyonan and Yanggang Provinces.

Finding the reserve of the growth of grain production in increasing soil fertility, with the area of the arable land limited, the agricultural working people are hastening their work

Scientific, Technological Successes Viewed

SK0901235891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2206 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Scientists and technicians of Korea are registering many scientific and technological successes from the first days of 1991.

The scientists of the Central Mining Institute who completed researches into a new method of concentrating non-metallic minerals last year have succeeded in the elementary experiment of a new mining method which may markedly raise the metal content of raw [word indistinct] they have applied dozens of technical innovation proposals including the introduction of technical innovation proposals including the introduction of more efficient floatation machine and water spraying pumb.

The scientists of the railway science academy succeeded in the trial operation of new [word indistinct] electric locomotive and successfully solved scientific and technological problems arising in massproducing 100-ton wagons, 8-axle electric locomotives and newly developed paints.

The scientists and technicians in the domain of power industry are solving many scientific and technological problems arising in the modernisation of existing generating equipment and the construction of new power stations.

The scientists and technicians sent to the construction sites of apartment houses for 50,000 families in the capital city of Pyongyang and Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex have succeeded in introducing one new construction method after another so as to raise the quality and speed of construction.

Besides, successes are reported in the elementary experiments of research subjects of scientists and technicians throughout the country.

People Urged To 'Struggle Like Heroes'

SK0901112691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—A key to winning great victory on all fronts of socialist construction in hearty response to the new year address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is to bring the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude into fuller play in all sectors of the national economy, says NODONG SINMUN today in an editorial calling upon all the party members and other working people to fully display again the mettle of our people who live and struggle like heroes in their efforts to carry out this year's assignments.

The editorial says:

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude is the traditional spirit which our people have always highly displayed in the whole course of building socialism and the heroic revolutionary spirit which forcefully exalted the honor of chuche Korea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"Our people are a heroic people who have fought and defeated two imperialist enemies in one generation. They are a revolutionary people who have built socialism splendidly with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude."

The staunch spirit of self-reliance of our people determined to carry out their revolutionary tasks without fail by their own efforts and with their own technology and resources under any circumstances is the source which made it possible to successfully fulfil several vast prospective plans and usher in a heyday of the era of the Workers' Party in this land. Smashing the counterrevolutionary offensive of the imperialists, last year we pressed ahead with large-scale construction projects to increase the might of the socialist independent national economy and made a great irrigation network capable of supplying sufficient water to all the paddy and nonpaddy fields in the western area of granary [as received]. This was possible because we worked in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude. The reality clearly shows that the road of further consolidating and developing the socialism of chuche replete with independence, self-sufficiency and self-reliant defence lies in self-reliance and the way of firmly defending the national honor and dignity is to thoroughly apply the principle of self-reliance.

When the entire party members and other working people give fuller play to the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, the heroic mettle of our people who make the vigorous revolutionary march in the 90s, not wavering in face of any anti-socialist moves of the imperialists, will be powerfully demonstrated and the economic might of chuche Korea will grow in every way.

What is important in highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude is for the party members and other working people to firmly establish the chuche-oriented viewpoint and stand of firmly believing in their own strength and solving all problems in strict reliance on it.

There cannot be the slightest hesitation and vacillation for those who have firm conviction of their own strength in carrying out political tasks of the party. All the party members and other working people should implement the tasks set by the party, staunchly pulling through difficulties that may crop up on their way by their own efforts under the revolutionary motto "when the party is determined we can do anything".

NODONG SINMUN on Socialist Contruction

SK0401112291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 4 Jan 91

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Making Cheers of Victory in Socialist Construction Continue To Echo Loudly"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in an editorial today calls upon all the officials and working people to highly display mass heroism in the first battle of the new year, to begin with, so that cheers of victory, a vigorous drumbeating of the revolution in socialist construction may echo loudly to demonstrate the might of chuche Korea to the whole world.

The editorial quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"When the cheers of victory in socialist construction continue to echo loudly, the imperialists' hullabaloo against our Republic and socialism will fizzle out, the chuche idea will acquire stronger magnetism, and the day of the complete victory of socialism and national reunification will come sooner."

The editorial says:

The cheers of victory that we have to raise loudly are cheers of pride and honor of magnificently having built a "model country of socialism" in this land under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and they are voices representing the firm determination and pledge to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche through to the end, continuously holding higher the banner of socialism.

Making the cheers of victory in socialist construction echo more loudly means dealing a telling blow at the imperialists' ever more heinous manoeuvres against socialism and strikingly demonstrating the justice of the chuche idea and its vitality and the advantages of socialism of our own style. All the officials and working people must work hard to bring about another great upsurge in all sectors of socialist construction in the spirit with which they had raised loud cheers of victory in the socialist revolution even under the difficult conditions after the war, with such passions as were displayed when raising the vigorous cheers of socialist industrialization in succession and with the mettle with which they have won victory after victory in the struggle to accomplish the cause of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea under the banner of the three revolutions.

Socialist economic construction is an important front on which we have to make cheers of victory echo loudly this year.

As clarified by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address, our major tasks in socialist economic construction this year are to attain a high and steady rate of production and construction by keeping those economic sectors which must lead the other sectors going well ahead of the latter and by making effective use of the economic foundations that have already been laid, and to raise further the people's material and cultural standards to meet the requirements of socialism.

Cheers of victory in socialist construction must also ring out loudly in the struggle to continue bringing the advantages of socialism of our own style into fuller play, the editorial says, and continues:

We must highly display the superiority of the socialist system to the corrupt capitalist system by bringing into fuller bloom the political, cultural and economic life to meet the innate demand of social human beings and the ideal of socialism.

The entire party members and other working people must despise and hate endlessly the capitalist system and strive to prevent the infiltration of reactionary bourgeois ideology and way of life into ours, with the high pride and self-confidence in living in the best socialist system.

All the officials and working people must work to give strong impetus to the historical trend to socialism, decisively smashing the imperialists' strategy of "peaceful transition" and war manoeuvres with a firm conviction of the victory of the people's cause of independence.

A sure guarantee of making cheers of victory in socialist construction continue to echo loudly lies in firmly establishing chuche and increasing the might of singlehearted unity in every way.

So Yun-sok Attends South Pyongan Workers Rally

SK0701123591 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0500 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpt] On the afternoon of 4 January, a rally of South Pyongan Province workers was held at Pyongsong Plaza to thoroughly implement this year's New Year address by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and his teachings on the militant tasks that were given at the expanded plenary session of the party in South Pyongan Province.

Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, responsible secretary of the party of South Pyongan Province, and chairman of the People's Committee of South Pyongan Province; Kim Man-song, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of South Pyongan Province; and responsible functionaries of the local, party, organs, administrative and economic organizations, and mass organizations, participated in the rally with some 50,000 city workers.

Comrade So Yun-sok gave a report at the rally. He said that in last year's expanded plenary session of the party of South Pyongan Province, the great leader gave a programmatic teaching in bringing about a new upsurge in all fields of the people's economy in the province. He also talked about the brilliant tasks that were put forth before our people for this year's socialist construction by the great leader in his New Year address this year. [passage omitted]

Pyongyang Monuments, Architecture Praised

SK0701045991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 7 (KCNA)—Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, has many monumental edifices associated with the history of heroic struggle and creation of the Korean nation.

There are more than 100 monuments and architectures which boast of their superb architecture. Among them are the 170-metre high Tower of the Chuche Idea occupying a spacious area on the bank of the River Taedong, the 60-metre high Arch of Triumph, the 4,000-seat Grand People's Study House with a more than 30 million booking capacity and a total floor space of nearly 100,000 square metres, the 150,000-seat May Day Stadium, the Mansudae Art Theatre, the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Pyongyang Koryo Hotel and Pyongyang Metro.

Modern Changgwang, Kwangbok, Munsu and other streets lined up with apartment houses from 10-storied to super-high-rise ones are monumental creations which have been built by the heroic struggle of the Korean people.

Pyongyang has a history of more than 1,500 years. Everything in it had been ruined during the 36-year long colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists and the aggressive war ignited by the U.S. imperialists (1950-1953).

Pyongyang completely changed its appearance as a modern city over the 30 odd years after the ceasefire in particular.

In the 1970s, the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, the February 8 House of Culture and other monumental edifices sprang up like mushrooms after the rain. The total floor space of the buildings constructed in the '80s is 2.3 times as large as those in the 1970s.

Tongil Street tantamount to a city, the 105-storied Ryugyong Hotel, the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station and other monumental edifices of the 90s are under construction in Pyongyang.

Party Central Committee Confers Labor Hero Title

SK0501051891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Pyongyang January 5 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, promulgated a decree of the Central People's Committee on conferring the title of Labour Hero on Yi Kye-baek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party.

The decree dated January 3 says that the Central People's Committee of the DPRK is conferring the title of Labour Hero of the DPRK and the Golden Medal (Hammer and Sickle) and Order of the National Flag First Class on Yi Kye-baek, chairman of the C.C., the Korean Social Democratic Party, on his 85th birthday for his devoted efforts overseas for many years for democratic national rights of the Korean citizens in Japan and the prosperity and development of the socialist motherland under the chuche idea and for his great contribution to the promotion of national unity and the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country in active support of the united front policy of the Workers' Party of Korea after his return home.

South Korea

Defense Minister Hints at Sending Troops to Gulf

SK1101135291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1322 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku hinted Friday that his government may reconsider its decision not to send combat troops to the Gulf region if necessary.

Announcing the government's plan to dispatch a military medical team to the Persian Gulf, the top defense official said, "It is the government's basic position that South Korea can not send combat troops to the region at all. But the decision may be reconsidered in light of our national interests if the situation there gets worse and the United States or multinational forces strongly request it."

A 154-member medical team will be dispatched to Saudi Arabia as soon as the National Assembly votes in approval, most likely around Feb. 1, Yi said. The medical troop is expected to cost South Korea 8 billion to 9 billion won per year (11.2 million to 12.6 million U.S. dollars), and it will not be pulled out immediately even after the war ends, the minister said. A 26-member detachment will leave for Saudi Arabia in advance on Jan. 15, he said.

He flatly denied that the United States is demanding additional aid for Operation Desert Shield. South Korea has promised 220 million dollars in cash and material aid. Brushing aside fears that Korea's involvement in the multinational forces may end up with an unpleasant result similar to that of South Korea's participation in the Vietnam, Yi said, "Troop dispatch to Vietnam was made at U.S. request. The case is different now as we are sending the medical team to the Gulf voluntarily," Yi said. "Unlike jungle warfare in Vietnam, the battle on the desert is likely to be short. Fears that the medical team's presence in the Gulf region will entail a dispatch of combat troops are groundless," he claimed.

The medical team staff will be chosen from a designated field hospital and they will undergo basic medical training for desert conditions and preparations for possible chemical war immediately [after] the plan is approved by the National Assembly. Iraq has not shown any official reaction to South Korea's decision to send the medics, Yi said, and future relations with Iraq is not likely to seriously deteriorate.

Further on Dispatch of Medical Team to Gulf

SK1101103291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1004 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a team of 105 military medics and 49 support personnel to Saudi Arabia in early February, the Defense Ministry announced Friday. The team, to be headed by a colonel, will include 26 doctors and 20 nurses and be stationed in Neiriya, 120 kilometers south of the border with Kuwait.

The Saudi Government will provide lodging, medical facilities, apparatus, medicines and food for the team, which will supply its own weapons, ammunition and anti-chemical warfare equipment.

A 26-member advance team will be sent to Saudi Arabia to examine the site where the medics will be stationed. The team will go to Saudi Arabia on a chartered civilian jet around Feb. 4, after the National Assembly approves the dispatch, and members will be rotated every six months "in principle," the Ministry said. Korea and Saudi Arabia are discussing the status of the medical team, and giving its members privileges comparable with those of diplomats such as duty-free access to goods.

Neiriya, population 30,000, is a center of transportation linking the Saudi frontline and rear areas. A U.S. supply base is under construction in the vicinity. The Ministry said Neiriya would be "comparatively" safe from Iraqi attack, except if it uses missiles. The medical team will work at two mobile field hospitals and will not need to work at the front, it said. The United States, Britain, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines have all sent medical teams to Saudi Arabia and Poland, Australia, Czechoslovakia and Japan are considering it.

Seoul To Announce Emergency Economic Measures

SK1001085791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0832 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will announce a package of measures to prevent the Gulf crisis from hurting the nation's economy on Friday or Saturday, Information Minister Choe Chang-yun said Thursday.

Emerging from a cabinet meeting, Choe said the special plans, to be announced by Deputy Prime Minister Yi Sung-yun, would comprise emergency measures for securing a stable supply of oil and saving energy.

"The measures will be devised to cope with the worst-case scenario of the outbreak of war in the Gulf region," Choe said. On a controversial plan to send a military medical team to the region, Choe said, "it has been decided to send military medics since it is difficult to recruit disciplined medical personnel from civilian medical organizations."

"The government holds the position that the invasion of a sovereign nation cannot be tolerated in the civilized world and that South Korea should join the U.N. efforts based on international consensus."

Iraq Requests Korean Workers Delay Evacuation

SK1001081591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0703 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korean construction companies are desperately trying to get evacuation plans in place for their employees in Iraq, but Baghdad says they should remain until war begins. Some 1,200 Koreans have left Iraq and Kuwait since early August when the Persian Gulf crisis began, but there remain 97 in Iraq and the companies hope to evacuate them by the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraqi to get out of Kuwait, company officials said. Some Korean construction workers may remain until war breaks out, as Iraq demands, the officials said.

The companies have applied for exit visas for their employees, but are uncertain if Iraq will issue them as requested because Iraq says a skeleton staff is needed to maintain the construction sites, they said. Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co. said its basic policy is to have all its personnel out of the country by Jan. 15, but if that is impossible they will have to flee to neighboring nations such as Jordan, Turkey and Iran after war begins.

Hyundai says it has the most construction projects in the Gulf region and has 69 employees in Iraq. Samsung has 23, Hanyang four and Jungwoo one. Many companies say they were thrown into financial agony by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August last year as they have been unable to collect 1.035 billion U.S. dollars they are owed. In Iraq, four construction projects by Hyundai were suspended and the firm is owed 775 million dollars.

If war breaks out, construction companies will suffer even bigger damage because Saudi Arabia, a main construction market, will be the first victim. Saudi Arabia has 2,553 Korean construction workers from 25 companies. Of them, 513 are in areas bordering Iraq such as Jubayl and will be evacuated to safer parts of Saudi Arabia by the Jan. 15 deadline.

Ministry Makes Gulf Shipping, Evacuation Plans

SK1101095791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0828 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—With the possibility of a gulf war moved closer to probability by the failure of peace talks in Geneva, the Transportation Ministry ordered all South Korean-flag ships in the region to take out war risk insurance on Friday.

Uninsured ships will be banned from the region after Jan. 16, Ministry officials said. The U.N. deadline for Iraqi withdrawal is Jan. 15, after which the U.S.-led multinational force is permitted to use force.

The Ministry also ordered Korean Air (KAL) to have a jumbo jet standing by to evacuate about 100 Koreans still in Baghdad and suspended KAL's regular services to the Middle East from Jan. 15. Flights will not resume until the situation improves.

A situation room was set up in offices of the Korea maritime and port administration to watch the movements of Korean-flag vessels in the region around the clock and map out contingency measures.

On Thursday, three Korean-flag oil tankers and one bulk carrier were in the gulf and five other vessels, including three tankers, were headed there for arrival Jan. 19. All the ships have war insurance.

Korean Air has already halted flights to the Mideast.

Gulf War May Cost $5.6 Billion in Lost Trade

SK1101033491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0202 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—A war in the Persian Gulf could cost South Korea as little as 1.5 billion U.S. dollars or as much as 5.6 billion dollars, depending on how long it lasted, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday.

The ministry based its lower forecast on war ending in 10 days and the upper figure on a conflict lasting two to three months. The ministry said it was highly possible war would be over in less than 10 days if the U.S.-led multinational forces launched an all-out attack and if Iraq simultaneously invaded Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel.

If the fighting is limited to air and sea skirmishes and Iraq stays out of Saudi Arabia, the conflict is unlikely to escalate into all-out war but will probably drag on for two or three months as the two sides carry out peace negotiations, it said. A long war, two to three months, would probably cost Korea 5.6 billion dollars in trade losses, cutting exports by 2.8 billion dollars and increasing imports by 2.8 billion dollars, it said.

The losses would include 300 million dollars worth of direct exports to the Middle East and 2.94 billion dollars worth of indirect exports, but be partly offset by war dividend exports to non-Middle East countries worth 440 million dollars.

The increase in imports breaks down to 1.9 billion dollars in additional costs for crude oil and 900 million dollars for oil derivatives and petrochemical imports.

If war ends within 10 days, export losses will amount to 700 million dollars and imports will increase 840 million dollars for an overall loss of 1.54 billion dollars.

The Ministry said Korean industry will have cost-push factors of 0.7 percent to 0.9 percent if domestic oil prices rise 10 percent. To help lessen losses, the Ministry will consider giving tax and financial assistance to affected firms, perhaps expanding export financing and extending the redemption period. Korean traders, including general trading companies and small exporters, have suspended all exporting activities in the Gulf region, including negotiations, contracting and shipments.

Exports to Middle East Slowed by War Prospects

SK0901063491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—The threat of war has stopped some South Korean shipments to the Persian Gulf since late December, hitting electronic, textile and steel exports particularly hard. Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar and other electric firms are looking for alternative markets for the piles of goods left sitting in their warehouses by the drop in exports to the region, which used to take nearly 10 percent of their overseas shipments.

Samsung Electric Co. estimates its loss could reach 20 million U.S. dollars, mostly in audio equipment and color televisions, if war erupts, and three or four times that figure if the fighting is prolonged. The company, which had exports of 3.8 billion dollars last year , is shifting its outlets in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates to Afghanistan, Pakistan , Sudan and Ethiopia.

Goldstar Co. halted electronics exports to the region at the end of last year until Jan. 30. The company is in close contact with its agents in Dubai and making a daily review of the safety of its employees there.

The Textile industry, which sends 15 percent of its exports to the Middle East, has also been hurt by the fear of war, polyester manufactures harder than acryl ones. Small firms near Taegu, the nation's textile center, say they are delaying shipments even though orders from the region are piling up. The steel industry had been seeking buyers in the Middle East to make up for falling shipments to Japan and North America, but now finds itself looking for new markets. Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar and other trading arms of Korea's conglomerates have suspended exports to the Gulf and turned their marketing energy to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Article Urges Support for U.S. in Mideast

SK1001061191 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Jan 91 p 5

[Article by Hong Sa-chung, adviser to editorial staff, from the "Hong Sa-chung Column:" "The Logic of Troop Dispatch"]

[Text]**Distinction Must Be Made Between Emotions and National Interests**

Individual morals are different from that of a state. Trust between individuals transcends interests. A state's morals, however, are based on power and interests. Trust between nations is nothing more than sugar coating on the surface of such naked national interests. Reality in international politics is that you cannot ignore such national interests, no matter how filthy and disgusting they may appear.

In reality as such, national interests are what we must think about before anything else. Even if our morals refuse to admit it, there is no such thing as a lasting ally. Allies, no matter how long we may have maintained friendly ties with them, can be our allies only when they are advantageous to our national interests.

When it comes to the issue of sending in troops to the Persian Gulf, our national interests are what we must take into account before anything else. Those who are opposed to the dispatch of troops, however, seem to neglect framing a correct and sufficient calculation of our national interests. Of course, national interests have two aspects: A visible aspect that can be counted in figures and an invisible one that cannot be counted in numerical terms. There are short-term and long-term national interests. Regrettably, however, those who are against sending in troops to the Persian Gulf seem to fail to consider any of them.

When Iraq regards the dispatch of our army medical team to the Persian Gulf as a naked hostile act, our business firms will be forced to give up more than $1 billion that Iraq owes them. This amount, when lumped together with the $200 million that has been set aside as our share of expenses involving the Persian Gulf and expenses needed for the dispatch of the army medical team, will cause us to suffer an enormous national loss. If those who are against the idea of sending in the army medical team to the Persian Gulf argue that Korea will have not much to gain to make up for such an enormous loss, they would be more persuasive. Nevertheless, none of them seems to be taking such a fact into account. Nor do they seem to think about national ethics or a sense of obligation.

"There is a strong impression that it would be an act of buckling under to U.S. pressure" is one of the most important reasons cited against the dispatch of troops. I have no way of knowing how strong the U.S. pressure was or whether it was only an "impression" or something else. Only the government knows. Let us just assume that the United States really put pressure on our country in order to hammer its point home. Let us also assume that Korea buckled under to it against its will. In assuming such things, the first thing that comes to our mind is whether we really have enough strength to reject such pressure. Second, what can we expect in return after rejecting the pressure, gains or losses?

What counts most in this regard is whether the decision to send in troops is correct or not. It does not matter whether it was a result of U.S. pressure or not. In other words, what matters is whether the dispatch will be advantageous to our national interests or not. Those who are against the dispatch of troops have made no effort to clarify their stand. Let us consider the opposite. A big fire breaks out in a village house. Naturally, his next-door neighbor comes to help him and they work together to extinguish the fire.

Different from Vietnam War

If the fire is too fierce, the two neighbors alone are not enough to put out the fire and the owner of the burning house asks for help from other neighbors. If the fire is not extinguished right away, it may end up burning other houses. So he earnestly calls on his other neighbors to help him put out the fire, or at least help him with water, instead of remaining a mere spectator. Still, some neighbors drag their feet, thinking that their houses, a little far from the burning house, three or four houses away, would be safe. Just imagine that the owner of the burning house bears down on the reluctant neighbors and scolds them, saying: "How can you remain a spectator?" Will anyone side with this reluctant man simply because he is scolded by the owner of the burning house and is unhappy about it?

Let us suppose that fortunately the fire has gone out without spreading to the whole area of the village. However, the hard feelings between those who suffered the confusion of the fire and the neighbors who just looked on as an object of interest can be hardly eliminated. If, later on, a fire breaks out at the house of one of these neighbors, the master whose house is on fire will have no face to entreat his neighbors for help. Even if he entreats his neighbors, no one will help him.

The Persian Gulf situation is not an issue in which only the United States should be involved. It is an issue that all countries in the world—which hate violence, curse aggression, and aspire to world peace—should be involved in.

So far as we want, at least, to take a dignified position and to enjoy a due voice in the international community, we should be prepared to voluntarily make sacrifices within the scope that our situation permits. And if we must send our troops, we should send them as soon as possible and with good grace. Furthermore, doing so can be beneficial to us.

Those who oppose the dispatch of troops for fear of becoming embroiled in the Persian Gulf situation, if any, should have opposed the government's decision on 9 August last year to join the economic sanctions against Iraq adopted at the UN Security Council. If they had missed that opportunity, they should have put on the brake on the government's moves for the dispatch of troops that have continued since the United Nations adopted a resolution on the use of armed forces against Iraq in last November.

Another reason that those who oppose the dispatch of troops is that they insist that the dispatch of a medical team may expand into a dispatch of combat troops. And they insist this based on the precedent of the Vietnam war. They are making a mistake of seeing the Vietnam war and the Persian Gulf situation on the same dimension. The problem is that they regard the Persian Gulf situation as an issue of another country, that is to say, an issue that only the United States or Britain is involved in. Herein lies their mistake. Is the Persian Gulf situation the issue of other countries?

We should realize that a war in the Persian Gulf region, if it breaks out and is protracted, will have a serious effect on our economy. We should also think about the possible consequences that we will receive if the war ends with Iraq's victory. At the same time, we should also think of the worst situation—war ending with the U.S. side's victory and without our participation, we have to suffer serious alienation from other countries. Our country is not a country that can live peacefully with its own strength. In other words, our country cannot afford to live peacefully only with our own strength. Still, our economy, as well as our security, cannot be completely and independently sustained without others' help. This being the situation, how can we find excuses? We can hardly understand those who oppose the dispatch of a medical team to the Gulf region.

Those who oppose the dispatch of a medical team to the Gulf region unanimously claim that the dispatch should be made after collecting public opinion. This is only too natural. However, we have the National Assembly and national assemblymen to collect such public opinion. We think it is also natural for the opposition party to express its voice of opposition before a bill for the dispatch of a medical team is presented to the National Assembly, because doing so is conducive to the development of parliamentary politics.

As argued by the opposition party, it is also wrong for the government to unilaterally decide and send a medical team without the consensus of "public opinion." However, what we can hardly understand is the fact that before discussion at the National Assembly, the opposition party insists that it "will block the dispatch of a medical team at any cost by mobilizing all party strength."

What responsible politicians should do away with is the way of thinking which will cloud the people's eyes of seeking national interests by appealing to the moral justification that is beyond our capability to implement or by appealing to the people's national sentiment.

Deputy Premier Choe Ho-chung Reviews Japan Ties

OW1001204291 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1235 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung by NHK announcer Hatsuhisa Takashima; Choe is in Seoul, Takashima is in Tokyo studio; Choe speaks in Korean superimposed by Japanese translation; from the "NHK News 21" program—recorded]

[Text] [Takashima] Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, I think that the international situation surrounding the Korean peninsula in particular has changed drastically during the past six months, ever since President No Tae-u's May visit to Japan. What are your expectations for Japan-ROK relations under this new situation? What do you expect from Prime Minister Kaifu's current visit to the ROK?

[Choe] President No Tae-u's visit to Japan last May was historical and successful because his visit laid the foundation for making the people and Governments of the ROK and Japan correctly understand their past, liquidate their history, and develop new relations. Prime Minister Kaifu began the new year by visiting the ROK; this will further develop relations countries and consolidate foundations for cooperation. I think that this is of great significance. His current visit to the ROK is opportune.

The ROK and Japan status as neighbors destines them to intimacy. Various problems have arisen between the two countries because of their differences; they will arise again in the future. If the two countries try to understand each other and resolve these problems one by one, I expect that they will play more important roles in the a new Asia-Pacific era of the 21st century. In that sense, Prime Minister Kaifu's current visit to the ROK is of great significance. I have great expectations of this visit.

[Takashima] The abolition of fingerprinting requirements [for Koreans in Japan] and Japan's transfer of technology to the ROK are issues pending between the two countries. What do you think of these issues?

[Choe] At present, about 700,000 Koreans live in Japan. I hope that Japan will consider the historical particulars of why they went to Japan and will accord them legal guarantees by which they can live free of the fear of discrimination. This is of great importance in developing relations between the two countries. In this regard, the Japanese Government's decision to abolish fingerprinting is delightful. I hope that with the abolition of fingerprinting as a turning point, our brothers in Japan will live there without discrimination.

With regard to economic cooperation between the two countries, our nation registered a $6 billion trade deficit with Japan last year, contrary to our projections. We expected Japan to transfer industrial and scientific technology to the ROK, but the transfer did not occur according to our expectations. Needless to say, it is important for our governments to make efforts to that end. Since Japan's economy is led by private business under a market economy, I think it is important that the government, as well as the private sector, adopt a positive attitude toward technology transfer.

I think that it is desirable for the Japanese to take the view that although they lead an affluent life, there are also other developing nations. I hope that the Japanese will expand their cooperation so that people of other nations may also live affluently, instead of assuming the narrowminded view that it would be unwise to encourage potential rivals.

[Takashima] Talks will be held soon between Japan and the DPRK on the question of normalizing relations. What does the ROK think of the talks? What does it expect from the talks?

[Choe] Following DPRK overtures, Japan has held talks with the DPRK on normalizing relations. I think this is an indication of Japan's willingness to contribute to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, against the backdrop of its international status. The ROK's position in principle does not oppose improved relations between Japan and North Korea. In the July 7 Declaration, we proposed to the DPRK the creation of new friendly, cooperative ties and an end to confrontational and competitive relations. We have also told the DPRK that it should open its door and become a responsible member of the international community. I think it would be desirable for Japan to hold talks with the DPRK on the normalization of relations, taking this point into consideration. To our regret, the DPRK still sticks to the policy of unifying the Korean peninsula under communism and is deepening its diplomatic isolation. The DPRK also faces economic difficulties. The DPRK espouses a policy of unifying the Korean peninsula under communism. I think that if the DPRK expects Japan to go along with that position, we must be cautious.

Opposition Leader Kim Tae-chung Meets Kaifu

OW1001113991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 KYODO—South Korean opposition leader Kim Tae-chung told Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday that he was disappointed by what he called Tokyo's failure to honor its promise to teach the uncensored history of Asia in its schools. Kim, leader of the No. 1 opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, made the complaint when Kaifu called on the National Assembly to meet South Korean political leaders, Japanese officials said.

Kim had earlier turned down a Japanese invitation for a bilateral meeting with Kaifu during his two-day trip to Seoul. Kim reminded Kaifu that the Japanese Government pledged during South Korean President No Tae-u's visit to Tokyo in May last year to teach its students "correct" history. The opposition leader said he considers that promise the most remarkable result of No's trip and said it is regrettable that Japan has not put it into force.

Kaifu, a former education minister, asked Kim to give him examples of problems in Japan's teaching of history, saying his Government wants to teach the subject correctly. Kim also urged Japan to remove discrimination in education and employment against the country's Korean residents, saying this has become a source of South Korean resentment against the Japanese people.

Seoul To Propose Mail Exchange With North

SK0901021391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] The government plans to propose mail service between South and North Korea to pave the way for the opening of avenues of communications by civilians living in the South and North.

If the proposal is accepted by Pyongyang, a post office will be built at the truce village of Panmunjom to handle letters and parcels, the Communications Ministry said.

A ministry official, however, said that North Korea had expressed no interest in previous proposals for mail exchange with South Korea.

He forecast that there will be a large gap in the volume of mail as there are an estimated 10 million separated family members in South Korea compared with a far less number of such people in the North.

In addition to mail service, the ministry also launched a study for cross-border telephone calls and exchanges of television and radio programs.

The ministry will negotiate with the National Unification Board and other government branches about the opening of communications avenues because North Korea will be reluctant to accept Seoul's proposal due to their current political situation.

Letter Exchange With Northern Relatives Viewed

SK1101063091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0544 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Sixty-five South Koreans have received government permission to exchange letters with relatives in North Korea since Aug. 1 last year, and at least 30 of them continue to correspond, an official at the National Unification Board said Friday. "The letters are exchanged via Koreans in China, Japan and the United States. Sometimes gifts such as clothes, electronic appliances and watches are exchanged too," he said.

The letters from the North contained "almost no political propaganda" despite government censorship and had accurate return addresses, he said, hinting at changes in northern society. Such information was closely guarded in the past.

The law on inter-Korean exchange and cooperation went into force on Aug. 1 last year, allowing South Koreans to contact North Koreans with government permission. Some people had reunions in China with the help of Koreans there, the official said, predicting increased contact between South and North Koreans via third countries. There is no direct mail, telephone or other contact between South and North Korea.

Official Says Ban on North Products May End

SK1101063791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea may end its import ban on North Korean grain and ginseng to encourage trade between the two halves of the Korean peninsula, a senior official at the National Unification Board said Friday. "The government is positively considering lifting import restrictions on some North Korean products in order to boost inter-Korean economic exchanges," he said.

Importation of North Korean agricultural and fisheries products, herbal medicines, ginseng and tonic drinks is currently illegal. According to official data, the government granted 69 permits to private firms to import 20.22 million U.S. dollars of North Korean goods last year. North Korea imported 4,731 dollars of South Korean products in four cases.

Soviet, North Institutes To Cooperate

SK0601115491 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 29 Dec 90 p 4

[NOVOSTI/YONHAP from Vladivostok]

[Text] The Far East Institute under the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the North Korean Academy of Sciences have signed a 1991-1995 scientific and technological cooperation agreement.

Under this agreement, the two institutes will conduct joint research on automated production, biological and organic chemical research, and research on environmental protection and natural disasters in the Pacific.

Under this agreement, institutes will open for joint researches, and experts will be exchanged.

Prior to this, the Far East Institute signed agreements to facilitate exchanges with scientists in the ROK, Japan, and other Asian and Pacific countries.

Rogachev Leaves Seoul; Will Not Visit Pyongyang

SK1101074391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0707 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Soviet cabinet due to be appointed this month will set the date for President Mikhail Gorbachev's trip to Seoul, Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said Friday in a farewell news conference.

Rogachev, the official in charge of Asia-Pacific affairs, was leaving South Korea for Beijing after a five-day policy consultation trip. Speaking in Russian, he said his trip had laid a good foundation for a visit by Yuriy Maslyukov, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, on Jan. 16, implying that there had been some progress in talks on economic cooperation. "Bilateral or three-way economic cooperation in the far eastern Soviet region is possible as many Korean firms want to collaborate with the Soviet Union," he said.

Rogachev denied news reports that the wreckage of Korean Air Flight 007 had been found and all the bodies secretly cremated by the Soviet Union and said, "So far, such reports have not been confirmed by the Soviet Government. As asked by the Korean Government, the Soviet Government will convey new data and wreckage of the KAL plane to Seoul if any is found, and the Soviet authorities concerned will be notified of this request."

The plane was blasted out of the sky by a Soviet fighter plane after straying into Soviet air space over Sakhalin in 1983, killing everyone aboard, and there have been no reports by the Soviets of discovering the remains of the plane.

Disclosing that he will not go to Pyongyang, Rogachev said, "in Beijing, talks on the formation of a permanent consultation body between the Soviet Union and China will be completed." The Persian Gulf crisis and the climate around Cambodia and the Korean peninsula will also be discussed in Beijing, he said.

Soviet Delegation To Discuss Economic Cooperation

SK1001082991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—Yuriy Maslyukov, Soviet deputy prime minister for economic affairs, is due in South Korea next week for talks on Korean-Soviet economic cooperation, a government official said Thursday. Maslyukov has informed the South Korean Government of his plan to arrive in Seoul on Jan. 16 for a full-scale discussion of economic cooperation between the two countries, an official of Chongwadae, presidential residence, said.

Maslyukov will lead the Soviet delegation in talks between the governments to determine the scope and content of cooperation and Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, will head the Korean delegation to the week-long negotiations.

Seoul and Moscow are thought to be leaning toward a figure of between 2.5 billion and 3.5 billion U.S. dollars but are stalled over the amount of cash loans and their use. Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, visiting Seoul since Sunday for the first round of Korea-Soviet policy consultation talks, asked for 300 million to 500 million dollars of consumer goods as part of the economic cooperation.

Official talks on economic cooperation began in Moscow in August with a visit by a 20-member team led by Kim, who returned with a shopping list of 22 industrial projects and 40 consumer products, mostly household appliances, that Moscow wanted.

Chonminnyon Publishes White Paper on U.S. Bases

SK0701120791 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 5 Jan 91 p 9

[Text] It is 46 years since U.S. troops came to our country. However, the issue of U.S. troops in Korea became the object of social public opinion only in 1986 prompted by the incident of patriots Kim Se-chin and Yi Chae-ho, who burned themselves to death, and by residents' movement opposing U.S. military bases which began throughout the country in 1988. People have recently shown an interest in this issue and accordingly, this issue is not well known to the general public.

The northern edge of the Tongjak Bridge was blocked in front of the Yongsan U.S. military base, and could not be extended to Namsan Hill from Tongbu I-Chondong. Thus, the construction edge was cut off, and all that is there is a strange structure "awaiting future action." This strange structure symbolizes, in part, the present state of U.S. military bases. The National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon] recently published a white paper on the present status of U.S. military bases and on examples of the anti-base movement.

The white paper published by Chonminnyon, entitled "A Collection of Materials Concerning the Anti-U.S. Military Base Struggle, 'Yankee, Go Home!'" contains the present status of "basically master-servant" ROK-U.S. military relations, the status of military bases, conditions of campside Korean villages and the crimes of U.S. soldiers, as well as problems arising from these crimes. Thus, the white paper clearly explains the history and effects of the bases.

The material contained in this white paper partly consists of material already published in the press and made public in the past. The white paper also explains the present status of the movement against U.S. military bases in Songhaksan and Maehyang-ni, as well as the justness of such a movement from the standpoint of "the movement for independence and peace." The white paper critically points out the issue of crimes of U.S. soldiers, problems arising from the Status of Forces Agreement, "generosity" of the ROK Government, and "imitation" of U.S. military culture nurtured in campside towns.

The white paper notes that there are about 180 U.S. military bases in South Korea covering an area about 300 square kilometers and that we bear $2.8 billion annually from our "blood taxes" in payment for maintaining the U.S. troops in Korea. This means that each one of our people bears a 20 million won [as published] annual expense for maintaining U.S. troops in Korea. The white paper estimates that nuclear weapons deployed by U.S. military bases are 1,700 times as strong as the atomic bomb dropped in Hiroshima during WWII. This reality not only poses a "threat of nuclear war" but also shows that we are in a more subordinate and non-independent position than the Philippines which demands $1.2 billion from the United States each year for using its military bases. The white paper explains that the declaration of a "pannational joint-measures committee against U.S. military bases" issued on the occasion of its founding stressed that the reason for the active anti-U.S. military base movement staged across the country is that the U.S. troops stationed in Korea threaten residents' rights to existence and do not greatly help the nation.

Mr. So Chun-sop, Chonminnyon's vice spokesman who was in charge of editing this white paper, maintained that the anti-U.S. military base movement is not merely a declaration but a mass struggle as part of the movement for independence. Mr. So revealed that Chonminnyon is preparing for a legal and systematic struggle in addition to strengthening the opposition movement through the "pannational joint-measures committee against U.S. military bases" which was formed in October last year. He said that Chonminnyon is planning to submit a petition to the Constitutional Court within the month for its judgment as to whether the additional support of $20 million for the expenses of U.S. troops in Korea, which caused public discussion during the Assembly session for budget formation and which was noted as an act violating Article 30 of the Constitution and the Law on Budget and Accounts, is in violation of the Constitution or not.

Exports Fail To Meet 1990 Projections

SK0901015791 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] Seven general trading houses in Korea exported $24,751 million worth of goods to foreign countries last year, up 4.5 percent from $23,696 million registered in 1989, industry sources said yesterday. The figure, however, is $2,119 million short of earlier projected figure of $26.870 million.

Samsung topped the export list in 1990, with $26,330 million, representing a 11.7 percent increase over 1989, followed by Hyundai ($5,780 million, up 6.3 percent) and Daewoo ($4,745 million, up 0.6 percent). The overseas shipment figures were $2,970 million for Lucky-Goldstar, down 2.2 percent, $1,705 million for Ssangyong, up 9.3 percent, $1,635 million for Sunkyong, up 1.5 percent, and $1,502 million for Hyosung, up 13 percent.

Businesses Respond Favorably to No Tae-u Speech

SK0901023391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] The nation's major private economic organizations yesterday reacted favorably to President No Tae-u's new year press conference, which stressed the recovery of the Korean economy through activation of the manufacturng industry. They also welcomed the President's firm determination to expand investments in the social overhead capital facilities and to wipe out the uneasy psychology spreading in economic circles in connection with the local autonomy elections.

The federation of Korean Industries [FKI] said that it gives an ovation to President No's remarks which put the first policy priority for this year on lifting the Korean economy. The FKI also called on the government to come out with concrete follow-up steps to promote facility investments in the manufacturing sector.

Noting that No's press conference pointed out the core of the nation's economic problems, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that it anticipates the government's unsparing efforts to inject fresh vigour into the manufacturing industry. It said that all state policies outlined by the President will hopefully be implemented with consistency and without failure.

The Korea Foreign Trade Association said it welcomed the government's powerful policy to promote technology innovation and revamp the industrial structure in preparation for the era of full liberalization and internationalization. In particular, trading industries consider the President's willingness to expand social overhead capital as an urgent task for the nation to push for this year, it said.

The Korea Federation of Small Business, meanwhile, commented that President No's firm determination to discourage non-productive service sectors and achieve price stability is well-timed and proper to tide the nation over its current economic hardships.

Ban on Labor Union Political Action Contested

SK0901021291 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] The Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) Monday filed a suit with the Constitutional Court disputing the constitutionality of an article prohibiting labor unions from engaging in political activities. In a statement, FKTU claimed that Article 12 of the Trade Union Law that blocks virtually all political activities by labor unions is one sample of the most "undemocratic" laws the National Reconstruction Supreme Committee, an emergency legislative body formed shortly after the May 16 Revolution of 1961.

The statement maintained that it is indispensable for labor unions to assume a role of acting through the National Assembly to upgrade workers' political, economic and social status and improve their working conditions and therefore the article in question should be annulled. The federation said the article encroaches on workers' rights of association, equality and assembly as well as freedom of speech, guaranteed under the Constitution.

Although individuals and corporate bodies are allowed to make political donations, the FKTU claims a ban on labor unions right to make contributions is unconstitutional since it violates the principle of equality. The suit is seen as FKTU's part in efforts to remove institutional devices that stand in the way of unionists' participating in political affairs. With local council elections scheduled for March, the timing of the suit will draw public attention. The sole authorized alliance of trade unions has urged the government to allow unionists' political activities.

*Kim Yong-sam Seeks TK Group Support for Presidency

912C0038 Seoul IRYO SINMUN in Korean
18 Nov 90 p 2

[Article by Journalist Pak Chu-ho: "Kim Yong-sam Is Out To 'Woo the Kim Yun-hwan Camp'—the Old TK Group; He Senses Moves To Pick Presidential Candidate by Election"]

[Text] "The choosing of a candidate for the next presidency is, in my view, not a priority issue at this point of time. A candidate for the next presidency will be elected by democratic procedures at a point after my term has drawn into its final year." So said President No Tae-u in a special interview with TAEJON ILBO on 9 November marking the daily's 40th anniversary. The remark—No's first public comment on the successor issue—appeared to carry no great significance to the general public as it was viewed as a routine statement one could very well expect from a president. Among political observers, however, it stirred extraordinary concerns, for it was No's first official comment in the wake of a fierce, desperate power struggle between him and Kim Yong-sam. In a way, it could be seen as alluding to the president's firm resolve "not to pick Kim Yong-sam as a presidential candidate in the future after all."

It is a well-known fact that the fierce DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] infighting, fought for 10 days from late October through early November, touched off by the public disclosure of a DLP memorandum about an accord dealing with the party's cabinet system plan, was basically a showdown between President No and Kim Yong-sam over the next presidency and the form of government. Kim Yong-sam, wielding the extremist trump card threatening a secession of the entire RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] faction from the DLP, challenged President No to the showdown, obtaining eventually an instrument of surrender from No to the effect that No would give up the cabinet system constitutional amendment plan. He thus succeeded in securing his first beachhead in his campaign for the next presidency.

"Disbanding of Private Organizations" Fell Through

However, political observers saw it in a different light. The prevailing view among them was that the struggle led to the total disintegration of the cabinet system plan—the sole basis of coexistence for the three factions, the DJP [Democratic Justice Party], RDP and NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party], which Kim Yong-sam should never have touched. Consequently, they say, Kim Yong-sam committed the error of going for wool and coming home shorn. In fact, those observations were proved not to be off the mark when President No declared only three days after the No-Kim Chongwadae meeting and in a remark full of implications, that the candidate for the next presidency will be determined by democratic procedures.

Needless to say, the selection by democratic procedures in this case means that the next DLP presidential candidate will be picked not by a nomination by the president but by "election at an all-party convention." Also, the No statement that he will do the selection work not in the near future but will wait until just prior to the expiration of his term is tantamount to an unambiguous declaration of his will against making any commitment to anyone over the next presidency or party leadership.

Quite naturally, Kim Yong-sam and his RDP faction stiffened promptly at the firm declaration by the president. They might indeed have taken it lightly as a casual comment but they could not, because the RDP faction also knew too well that the president's mood had by no means been a friendly one toward Kim Yong-sam lately, and that there had long been signs of his being on guard against Kim in various ways.

It is a fact widely known in political quarters that President No exercises strict self-control when commenting about whatever intentions he has, and that when he has to say something about his intentions, he would use a roundabout, rather than a straightforward, expression. A typical example is his interview with KOREA TIMES on 29 October when Kim Yong-sam, refusing to tend to party business, confined himself in his Sangdodong home. The president presented in the interview a four-point plan to bring the DLP infighting under control—including a halt to the debate on the cabinet system constitutional amendment plan for the rest of the year, and party management centering on Kim Yong-sam. In other words, Mr No showed his bargain plan indirectly by employing a press interview format rather than taking it up directly with Kim.

The published interview infuriated Kim Yong-sam, who, as is widely known, left Seoul two days later for Masan after publicly declaring his position opposing the cabinet system plan. The RDP faction, more familiar than anybody else with Mr No's habit of employing roundabout expressions about himself, took the published TAEJON DAILY interview as another message from President No and, consequently, has a considerably deep sense of crisis at heart.

Furthermore, while Kim Yong-sam has ostensibly seized party control since the No-Kim Chongwadae meeting on 6 November, there actually has been no change in the situation at all, to the frustration of the RDP faction. A typical example in this connection is the breakdown of Kim's effort to disband private organizations which he declared following the Chongwadae meeting with No, allegedly as an accord with the President.

It is a well-known fact that Kim Yong-sam has always been on utmost guard against the Laurel Society led by Representative Pak Chol-on. Now, not content with his success in getting the cabinet system plan abandoned, he showed his firm determination to crush once and for all each and every private organization representing former ruling camp forces.

Attempt at Forming a United Front

However, Chongwadae and the entire ruling camp reacted against Kim more strongly than anticipated and, consequently, Kim Yong-sam had to taste another kind of frustration. No sooner had he mentioned his plan to dissolve private organizations than Pak Chol-on and other Laurel Society members said scornfully: "How could such a great political leader as Mr Kim Yong-sam feel any misgivings or panic about a small fry like me?" Chongwadae also put a damper on Kim's move by informally responding: "There has been no discussion about disbanding private organizations."

Meanwhile, the leaders of the NDRP and DJP factions, Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun, also strongly reacted against the Kim Yong-sam move with charges that "Chairman Kim has given contents of the Chongwadae meeting an excessively liberal interpretation." For instance, at a luncheon of the three members of the DLP Supreme Council on 8 November, held ostensibly for welcoming Kim Yong-sam's return to party work, Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun raised firm objections when Kim Yong-sam said that he would take disciplinary measures against individuals and organizations responsible for subversive activities against him. Only in the case of Representative Kim Chung-wi, did they decide to remove him as head of the DLP Seoul city chapter and, with that decision, they agreed to bury the "past affairs." Kim Yong-sam thus suffered a setback from his initial tough position.

All this indicates that although Kim Yong-sam succeeded in removing the first stumbling block, namely, the cabinet system constitutional amendment plan, he now faces an even more thorny course as an inevitable result of that success. In short, it has become more likely that he will be revenged ten times harder should he make any mistake in coping with the situation in the future.

Meanwhile, the Kim Yong-sam camp, recognizing the need to further strengthen the present campaign programs for the presidency, is hastening efforts to reinforce them. A typical example of such efforts is its attempt to form a united front with the former TK (Taegu-Kyongbuk or North Kyongsang Province) force led by floor leader Kim Yun-hwan.

Seeks To Weaken the DJP Faction Simultaneously

Kim Yong-sam, who had had a friendly feeling toward Kim Yun-hwan and the former TK force he represents, seemingly found greater confidence in, and need for alliance with, the Kim Yun-hwan camp in the wake of the recent DLP crisis over the three-party merger memorandum. There was a reason for it: when faction leaders Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun and a significantly large number of younger SK (Seoul-Kyonggi Province) politicians put up the "Overthrow Chairman Kim Yong-sam" banner and launched a concerted offensive against him, only the Kim Yun-hwan-led former TK force came forward calling for a rational settlement and then faithfully acted as a mediator.

The memorandum crisis was on the verge of a catastrophe when brought under control, although under a patch-up measure. In this process, Kim Yong-sam came to feel even more keenly the need for solidarity with pragmatists within the DJP faction. Now, he is known to be preparing a specific tie-up program to that end. That is, Kim Yong-sam is set for a coalition with them on the premise that if they approve of, and cooperate with, the Kim Yong-sam presidency plan, they would be in line to be his successor.

Factors that contributed to this decision by Kim Yong-sam are: currently, the DJP faction is crowded with middle-level bosses like Representatives Kim Yun-hwan, Yi Chun-ku, Yi Chong-chan and Yi Han-tong but, for reasons typical of ruling camp elements, their unity is very likely to remain nominal and, consequently, the possibility is almost nil of any of them rising to represent the ruling camp in the next presidential election.

In short, it is a general evaluation of them among political circles that they are unfit for the next presidency, if not for the presidency following that one. They themselves are aware of such limitations. So, Kim Yong-sam figures that if he should make a specific promise to any of them about the presidency following the next presidency, it would make his road to the presidency that much smoother.

This assessment of the situation by Kim Yong-sam has its validity and, in case the situation should develop in the direction he expects it to in the future, it can be said that from among such DJP faction leaders as Kim Yun-hwan and Yi Chong-chan, Kim Yong-sam will most likely pick Kim Yun-hwan as No. 1 candidate for a tie-up. Kim Yun-hwan's personal flexibility and his capability for rational political management will also be a big factor in that case. Equally important in the Kim

Yong-sam assessment is the factor of regional representation, namely, the fact that, of various leaders, Kim Yun-hwan is the only person representing the TK force.

In other words, Kim Yong-sam is pursuing a dual strategy by attempting to give the TK force—which has no suitable candidate for the next presidency—hopes of having its turn with the presidency following the next presidency: to diminish the TK force's rejection of his own presidency plan and, at the same time, remove the center of a pan-DJP faction unity effort.

In Preparation for the Final, Decisive Battle

On the basis of this judgment, the Kim Yong-sam camp reportedly laid plans to give top priority to cooperation with the former TK force in the future exercise of party prerogatives and the handling of party nominations of candidates. If Kim Yong-sam should successfully wage such kill-poison-with-poison tactics to divide his foes, the DJP faction that has no super-class politicians fit for a presidential candidate will have no alternative but to choose "the second worst" in order to avoid "the worst," yielding the next presidency to the Kyongnam [South Kyongsang Province] force, which is part of the Yongnam [North and South Kyongnam Provinces] region, and thereby preventing [Kim Tae-chung's] Honam force from seizing power. This is the calculation by the Kim Yong-sam camp.

The calculation naturally met a derisive response from the DJP and NDRP factions, which perceive it as "nothing more than a self-absorption-type hallucination caused by a subjective illusion combined with objective errors." According to them, President No, in connection with the memorandum crisis, merely resorted to a reasonable compromise in an effort to bring the crisis under control, based on a decision that this was no time yet to "release" Kim Yong-sam. Nevertheless, Kim Yong-sam misinterpreted it, and is acting as if he had won a victory and moved a step closer to the next presidency. That is all there is to it, they note.

"An Early General Election" To Send Kim on a Decline

This assessment by the DJP and NDRP factions is well-grounded in its own way. It is based on these points, which they say have been confirmed directly and indirectly: that President No indeed abandoned the cabinet system constitutional amendment plan, allowing himself to appear as if he had been brought to his knees; that however, it was actually nothing more than a last show of patience and by no means meant a surrender; and that this latest development has reduced to zero the possibility of Kim Yong-sam's becoming the next president.

In fact, what the DJP and NDRP factions say is significantly persuasive. According to a leading figure of the DJP faction, when the memorandum crisis was at its height, a majority view within the DJP faction was for using the opportunity to remove Kim Yong-sam from the party. Nevertheless, he says, President No decided against it on the grounds that this is no time for it. As a result, the DJP and NDRP factions appear busy with behind-the-scenes maneuvers, including the reinforcing of their rank-and-file forces, to prepare for the final battle. In this connection, Kim Yong-hwan, former NDRP's chief policy maker and a key aide to Kim Chong-pil, recently said: "The cabinet system plan is not yet dead. If the local autonomy system is to be put in effect and a general election held early next year, the question of regional emotion will again flare up into the biggest issue of our society, pushing the need for a cabinet system to the fore all over again." As seen in his comment, the judgment of the DJP and NDRP factions is that there will be a new political situation unfolding sooner or later, and that based on that judgment, they are busy preparing for it.

In addition, some in the DJP and NDRP factions are reportedly studying direct attack plans to hold a general election in the first half of next year, thereby sending Kim Yong-sam's RDP faction on a decline, and at the same time to push the generation change and cabinet system debates to the fore. In this connection, some view President No's recent instructions to the DLP leadership to cancel negotiations with the PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] over the local autonomy system elections which were on the brink of reaching an accord and to start with a clean slate, as a possible signal to show that a project for a second political realignment through an early general election is now afoot in earnest. The question of how the issue will develop is drawing attention.

*Industrial Drive To Produce 64M DRAM by 1992

912C0036 Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 14 Nov 90 p 8

[Article by No Sam-sok: "Our Semiconductor Industry—Its Today and Tomorrow; a Challenge to World's No. 2 Position"]

[Text] Is it really possible that our semiconductor industry will advance to the world's No. 2 position? The industry is taking such rapid strides daily that the rosy expectation does not seem out of place.

The fact that Samsung Electronics has succeeded in an experimental development of 16M DRAM [Dynamic Random Access Memory] is considered a typical achievement enhancing that possibility even more.

It is so because the development indicates that we have reached an equal level with Japan and the United States in the production technology in the memory area.

Korea once climbed to the world's No. 2 position in the 1M DRAM production. Also, in the current 4M DRAM production, it is in fourth place or better. Considering these facts, advancing to the No. 2 position is by no means a daydream.

Korea has more than 20 companies producing semiconductors. Of these, five firms—Samsung Electronics, Goldstar Electronics, Hyundai Electronics Industries, Korea Electronics, and Daewoo Telecom—are making semiconductors in a through process from wafer processing to finished products.

The rest are engaged in the simple assembly of the processed wafer chips. Anam Industrial in particular is known to be the world's largest semiconductor assembly enterprise.

During the initial stage of production when they were making 64K DRAM's and 256K DRAMS's, Korean firms were entirely dependent on advanced countries, chiefly the United States, importing blueprints, materials, and production technology from them. With 1M DRAM's, however, they embarked on independent semiconductor production using their own technology.

Presently, Samsung produces 7.5 million 1M DRAM chips monthly to meet domestic and overseas demands, while Goldstar will put into full operation a facility capable of producing 3.5 million 1M DRAM chips monthly next year.

Semiconductor makers in the country jointly developed 4M DRAM in 1988 and are now separately pushing its production on a commercial basis.

Samsung, the forerunner, has increased the 4M DRAM production to 800,000 chips from 10,000 at the end of last year. It plans to further increase it to 1 million chips next year and get itself into a full-fledged competition with Japan's Toshiba, Hitachi, and NEC [Nippon Electric Company].

Goldstar Electronics and Hyundai Electronics Industries are expected to go into 4M DRAM mass production between the latter half of next year and the first half of 1992.

In the case of 16M DRAM, Samsung, after developing trial pieces, asked foreign experts to test them. It is yet to develop 16M DRAM mass production technology and, therefore, commercialization will likely come in 1991.

Furthermore, according to observations by industry sources, a trial 64M DRAM product—which is already on the designing board—is likely to come out by 1992 if all goes well. Thus, as the pace of development picks up, the gap with the advanced countries narrowed from more than five years at the time of 64K DRAM to less than one year with 4M DRAM and is expected to be near zero with 16M DRAM and 64M DRAM.

As semiconductor makers in the country increased production sharply while rapidly developing technology, the production value is expected to increase to $5.410 billion in 1990 from $4.799 billion in 1989, and to $11.225 billion in 1994. The annual gain for the first half of the 1990's is estimated at 20%.

Among other things, it is forecast that the world market share in 1M DRAM will grow from 10.5% in 1989 to 21.8% in 1990.

Thus, Korea is now close to the world's advanced levels with the series of memory chips from 64K DRAM to 4M DRAM.

Especially, with its remarkable advances in the 16M DRAM and 64M DRAM areas, the day seems not far off when Korea will vault to the world's No. 2 position.

In the semiconductor-designing technology, however, Korea is, according to analyses, lagging way behind such advanced countries as the United States and Japan. Except for the all-purpose IC's (integrated circuits), it is generally at a 40% level of the advanced countries, or more than three years behind.

Due to this backwardness in designing technology, Korean makers are expected to fight a considerably tough, uphill battle in the race with the advanced countries over ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit) which is likely to become the mainstream semiconductor in the latter half of the 1990's.

In addition to the development of designing technology, development of semiconductor production equipment is considered another task for the industry to resolve.

It can be said that bringing up its basic technology levels further in such fields as designing, basic materials, and production equipment is essential in lifting our semiconductor industry to the world's advanced levels.

Burma

Students Blow Up Thai Trawler in Burmese Waters

BK1001151991 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] On 3 January insurgents from the ABSDF [All Burma Students Democratic Front] destroyed a Thai fishing trawler which they commandeered while it was fishing under a Myanmar [Burma]-Thai joint venture agreement in Mergui township.

Vessel No. NCC 408, Nan Sri Phunon, belonging to Narong Canning Company, NCC, was commandeered by about 30 armed ABSDF insurgents led by Kyaw Ya while it was fishing 60 miles west of Mergui on the morning of 29 December 1990. Using the communications equipment aboard the trawler, the insurgents contacted the port of Ranong in Thailand and demanded a ransom of 1.5 million baht. They captured the skipper and mechanics of the trawler and left the rest of the crew on a nearby island.

A representative of the NCC company went to the Minthamee jungle camp of the ABSDF on 1 January 1991 and gave 500,000 baht as agreed. But it has been learned that the ABSDF insurgents blew up and destroyed the vessel on 3 January.

It has been learned that the NCC company is planning to sue the ABSDF insurgents in a Thai court for comandeering its vessel and employees and for destroying the vessel despite the 500,000 Baht given the ABSDF.

Rangoon Reports Drug Suppression Efforts in 1990

BK0801160591 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Drug suppression arrangements in Myanmar [Burma] are being carried out as a national movement. Drug abuse control authorities accordingly initiated projects Ye Min Aung Phase III, IV, and V and projects Gonban Phase I and II between 1 January and 31 December 1990 to uncover and to take action against those involved in narcotic drugs.

In this period, the Defense Services seized 51.815 kilograms of heroin; 4.73 kilograms of brown opium; 998.221 kilograms of raw opium; 35.109 kilograms of marijuana; 69.5 liters of phensedyl [cough syrup]; and 428.8 gallons of chemicals. The New York street value of the narcotic drugs seized is more than $5 million, the equivalent of more than 32 million kyat.

Meanwhile, during this period, the People's Police Force seized 191.12 kilograms of heroin; 3.67 kilograms of brown opium; 927.63 kilograms of raw opium; 780.42 kilograms of marijuana; 0.89 kilograms of (?powdered opium); 1,772.14 liters of phensedyl; 3,381 methaqualone tablets; 752 bottles of comethazin [cough syrup]; and 24,033 tablets of Chinese cough medicine. Action also was taken against a total of 240 other drug-related cases and 2,306 cases involving drug users who failed to register for treatment. There were 6,396 cases of drug seizures throughout the year. A total of 8,952 people were charged under the 1974 Narcotic Drugs Law.

The value of drugs seized by the People's Police Force was more than $10 million, the equivalent of more than 100 million kyat [figures as heard]. The total New York street value of drugs seized by the Defense Services and the Police in 1990 is more than $22 million [figures as heard], the equivalent of over 133 million kyat. [passage omitted]

In the Shan and Chin States, the Defense Services columns teamed up with the local police units and the people to expose and destroy poppy plantations in 1990. Accordingly, 35.32 acres of poppy were destroyed in Shan State and 14.64 acres of poppy in Chin State. Thus, a total of 49.96 acres of poppy plantations, which could have yielded 0.21 tons of opium, were destroyed in 1990. The value of poppy destroyed was more than $300,000, the equivalent of over 1 million kyat. [passage omitted]

French 'Mercenary' Said Killed in Karen Zone

BK1001031191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 8 (AFP)—A French mercenary was killed in Burma in November while fighting with insurgent forces against the ruling military junta, reliable sources here said Tuesday.

The sources identified the dead man as 28-year-old Guillaume Oillic.

The French Embassy in Bangkok said it was not aware of the death.

Mr. Oillic died November 10 during a battle between Karen rebels and government troops in southeast Burma, the sources said.

The clash took place west of the Thai border town of Mae Sot, 500 kilometres northwest of Bangkok, the sources said. The Frenchman was taking part in a rebel push towards the Salween River, they added.

Another French mercenary, Olivier Thiriat, was killed 20 kilometres west of Mae Sot in Kawmoora, a Karen-held position, in May 1989.

Lance Eugene Motley, a U.S. Journalist working for SOLDIER OF FORTUNE magazine, died of his wounds in Kawmoora a few days later.

Karen rebels have been fighting for autonomy from Rangoon since Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948. Over the years, many North American and West European mercenaries have joined Karen ranks.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Government, Public React to Gulf Crisis

Protest Held Outside U.S. Embassy

BK1101102591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Parti Islam (PAS) Friday staged a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy calling for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

"We want peace not war in the Gulf," about 1,000 youths and women, clad in Muslim attire, chanted outside the embassy in the Jalan Kuching diplomatic row.

A three-man delegation headed by PAS Vice-President Daing Sanusi Daing Mariok had a 30-minute meeting before handing over a memorandum for U.S. President George Bush to an American official.

The youths who started assembling at the embassy after their Friday prayers, also carried American flags and placards condemning the United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Some of the placards read "Amerika Musuh Islam (America Enemies of Islam), America, Israel Go to Hell, Bush, Head of Violence".

The memorandum which was distributed to newsmen said that any solution to the Gulf crisis should include the Palestine issue.

It also condemned the presence of American troops in the Gulf and called for their withdrawal, Saudi Arabia for inviting the Americans and also Iraq for invading Kuwait.

Visa Freeze Sought From Saudis

BK1001152791 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues—Wisma Putra [Foreign Affairs Ministry] has asked the Saudi Arabian Embassy to suspend the issuing of visas to Malaysians because of the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the request was made to prevent Malaysians from being stranded in the event of war.

Tabung Haji [Pilgrims Management and Fund Board] officials, he said, had told him they would temporarily stop sending Malaysians wanting to perform their umrah [out of season haj].

He hopes private travel agencies would do the same.

Datuk Abu Hassan said it was possible there could be more Malaysians in the Gulf states although Wisma Putra's records showed there were only 1,700 of them.

Of the total, 1,000 are in Saudi Arabia. The others are in Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Syria.

"There may be some self-sponsored students and workers who have not informed Malaysian missions there of their presence," he said.

"They should contact the nearest mission either in Jeddah, Riyadh, Cairo, Abu Dhabi, Muscat or Amman immediately."

Meanwhile, members of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force and 15 other Malaysians would be evacuated to Iran.

A Wisma Putra official said they had assembled at a hotel in Baghdad and would leave for the Iranian border on Thursday.

"They will cross the border if war breaks out," he said, adding that the evacuation of Malaysian soldiers was being handled by the U.N.

Minister Views Geneva Talks

BK1001131891 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said in Kuala Lumpur that Malaysia is not surprised about the failure of the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva. According to him, the two sides had already decided on their stands and had refused to negotiate. In view of that, he called on Malaysian nationals in Saudi Arabia to obey the evacuation directive and return home immediately. He was speaking to newsmen at his office today.

[Begin Abu Hassan recording] Apparently the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz were a failure. Now that they [Malaysian nationals] know the outcome of the talks, it seems that there is no alternative except war. Based on this factor, they should make up their minds whether to return to Malaysia or go to safe places. [end recording]

Singapore's Goh Arrives for Three-Day Visit

BK1101070591 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0626 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, arrived here Friday [11 January], his first visit since becoming the island republic's premier last November.

Goh is on a customary tour of fellow ASEAN states as a new head of government.

He flew in from Jakarta, the first leg of his tour, accompanied by his wife, Minister for Foreign Affairs Wong Kan Seng, Senior Minister of State for Defence Dr. Lee Boon Yang, and other senior officials.

Goh is scheduled to meet Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Friday.

During his three-day visit, Goh will have an audience with the Malaysian king (yang di-pertuan agong), Sultan Azlan Shah, and call on Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba as well as attend a briefing at the Economic Planning Unit.

Minister Supports ROK Partnership in ASEAN

BK1101042591 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0326 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—South Korea may become a full dialogue partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) before the six-member grouping's next foreign ministers' meeting due here in July, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar has said.

He said that he had written to other ASEAN members last month on the possibility of giving South Korea the status of a dialogue partner.

"We are now waiting for the official reply from member countries and hope South Korea will be invited as a full dialogue partner to the July meeting," he told reporters after receiving three South Korean parliamentarians at his office here Thursday [10 January].

South Korea, which had requested several years ago for full dialogue partner status, had in the past sent representatives to the annual meeting but only for sectoral talks in tourism and investment, among other things.

ASEAN currently has six dialogue partners—Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States.

The dialogue partner status provides the framework for ASEAN to work out cooperative arrangements for mutual benefit, usually in the economic, social, and cultural field.

"South Korea made the request again last year during Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's visit to that country and Malaysia felt it should support the request," he added.

Abu Hassan said the South Korean visitors, led by chairman of the Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee of the National Assembly Pak Chong-su, briefed him on the unification moves of the two Koreas.

He told the visitors that Malaysia was encouraged by the development towards a unified Korea, especially the three meetings of the two leaders of South and North Korea so far.

Abu Hassan said the Korean delegation also thanked Malaysia for supporting South Korea to be a member of the United Nations.

The delegation arrived here Wednesday for a four-day visit to exchange ideas with their Malaysian counterparts on the administrative system of both countries.

Singapore

Airline To Suspend Flights to Dubayy 12 Jan

BK1001143891 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Singapore Airlines [SIA] will be suspending its operations to Dubayy from Saturday 12 of January in the light of the prevailing crisis in the Gulf area. Tomorrow's flights to and from Dubayy will be the last. An SIA statement said the service will resume once the threat of war is no longer there.

The twice weekly services to Karachi will, however, continue as normal. With this announcement, SIA will not be operating to any destination to the Gulf region for the time being.

Cambodia

Indian Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets With Hun Sen

BK1001151791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] On the morning of 9 January at the office of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State [title as heard], received L. L. Mehrotra, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of India.

On this occasion, Comrade Hun Sen warmly welcomed the visit to the State of Cambodia by Mehrotra and expressed deep gratitude to the Republic of India's Government, which has always provided moral and material assistance and support to the Cambodian people in national construction and economy. The comrade chairman also talked about the Republic of India, which had provided pipal trees, sacred things for the Cambodian people in general and symbols of the Cambodian-Indian relations of friendship, and about Mehrotra himself, who recently brought more seeds of the pipal tree and a statue of India's great hero Mahatma Gandhi, disciple of Gautama Buddha, the master, which further clearly shows the unbreakable historic relations between the two countries' people.

Comrade Chairman Hun Sen also briefed the Indian guest on a number of political situations in the country, as well as the goodwilled stance of searching for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. During this briefing, the comrade chairman stressed the inviolability of the State of Cambodia's sovereignty, the Cambodian people's right to self-determination, and the UN Charter.

Replying, Mehrotra profoundly thanked the State of Cambodia's Government for creating all kinds of favorable conditions for him during his visit to the State of Cambodia and expressed moving feelings on his visit to Angkor Wat, the only soul of every Cambodian.

Views Results of Visit

BK1101055191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] On the morning of 9 January at the government guest house, Mr. L. L. Mehrotra, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of India, held a news conference on the outcome of his visit to the State of Cambodia.

Present on that occasion were several representatives of the national and international mass media.

Mr. L. L. Mehrotra informed the national and international mass media about his talks with Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong of the State of Cambodia. He also thanked the State of Cambodia's party and government for providing facilities for his successful visit to Cambodia.

Answering a question concerning the solution for the Cambodian problem, Mr. Mehrotra called on countries concerned with the Cambodian conflict to cease their military aid to all Cambodian factions so a complete cease-fire and a free and correct election might be achieved.

Vietnamese Tourism Delegation Departs 9 Jan

BK1101071591 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0433 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 11—A delegation of the General Department of Tourism of Vietnam left Phnom Penh Wednesday after a week-long visit to Cambodia.

During its stay here, the delegation, led by General Director Nguyen Quyen Sinh, the general director of tourism of Cambodia, exchanged views with the host organization on the promotion of tourism between the two countries and visited some tourist sites in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, at Tonle Bati (Takeo Province), Koh Dach (Kandal Province) and the Royal Palace (Phnom Penh).

The two sides agreed on a 1991 cooperation plan under which Vietnam would give scholarship for Cambodian cadres to study in Vietnam. The two sides also agreed to form teams of technical experts who are to meet every three months to review their bilateral cooperation.

Radio Says Genocide Cause Remains To Be Solved

BK0901071991 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Station commentary: "The Root Cause of the Problem Should Be Carefully Dealt With"]

[Text] Normally, to properly and fairly solve a problem, one must clearly know the root cause leading to that problem and deal with it carefully and thoroughly. The same applies to the Cambodian problem. To reasonably and fairly settle the Cambodian problem, one must first carefully tackle the root cause of the problem. What is the root cause of the Cambodian problem? How should we deal with it?

It is generally known that, first of all, the Cambodian problem was definitively solved on 17 April 1975 through the great victory of the Cambodian people over the imperialists and their stooges. But the Pol Pot gang and its close lackeys turned that great victory into a painful, unprecedented crime of genocide. Thus the Cambodian problem emerged again, leading to the uprising and struggle of the Cambodian people under party and front leadership and toward the call for the fraternal Vietnam People's Army to come help liberate the Cambodian people. This assistance was indispensable and necessary. We could not wait for the Cambodian People's Armed Forces to increase in number so it could liberate the people, for the magnitude of the massacre committed by the Polpotists was widening so rapidly.

In just three years, eight months, and 20 days, more than 3 million innocent Cambodian lives were mercilessly snuffed out under the blows of hoeheads, bamboo sticks, cartwheel spokes, and through a myriad of other killing methods. Therefore, the Vietnmamese volunteer troops who came to save the Cambodian people from the abyss of death were certainly not the ones who caused the Cambodian problem but the ones who tried to help extinguish this problem. Nevertheless, we did not reject the memorandum of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia concerning two key issues of the Cambodian problem, namely, the presence of the Vietnamese volunteer troops in Cambodia and the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Imbued with genuine goodwill to find a peaceful solution as soon as possible to the Cambodian problem, the government of the State of Cambodia and the Government of the SRV agreed with each other to withdraw all remaining units of the Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia on 26 September 1989. The troop withdrawal was witnessed by nearly 500 foreign observers and journalists. Many countries, including the United States, have acknowledged that the troops were truly completely withdrawn. Since then, one of the two vital issues has been solved. Therefore, what remains to be settled is the question of genocide.

In 1990, the United States and the United Kingdom successively voiced their opposition to the genocidal Pol Pot gang's return to power. But it was unfortunate that the 28 August 1990 framework document of the permanent five UN Security Council members already accepted in Jakarta on 10 September by the Cambodian factions, as well as the 26 November 1990 draft peace plan of the permanent five and the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia—of which most of its fundamental points were accepted by the Supreme National Council on 23 December 1990—did not at all clearly stipulate the prevention of the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return to power.

Prevention of a resurgence of genocide or elimination of the threat to bring back genocide is a question of principle and morality. The fact that the UN draft peace plan did not clearly deal with the preventing the genocidal Pol Pot regime's return to power means that the root cause of the problem is being overlooked. Therefore, for the sake of fairness and reasonability, all agreement on the political solution to the Cambodian problem should not ignore concrete measures to definitively eliminate the Polpotist genocide. The most appropriate and drastic measure is to do away with all the genocidal regime's bases by depriving it of all the political, military, and socioeconomic organizations which could provide forces with which the genocidal regime could return to power. Otherwise, the peace forcibly imposed on the Cambodian people would be only a sham, a peace that would last one or two years before the Polpotists unearth the arms and munitions they have hidden in the jungles and seize power from the people again. Then the dark era of those three years, eight months, and 20 days would surely return.

The Cambodian people do not want such peace. We must act sternly toward the ringleaders of the despicable regime in accordance with the spirit of the 1948 international convention on the prevention of and deterrent against genocide by sending them to trial before an international tribunal, like we did to the Hitlerite fascists.

So far, not only have there been such problems, but there also have been attempts to disperse or weaken those who have effectively prevented the return of the genocidal regime. This can only encourage the criminal gang to return to the country and vengefully begin slaughtering the Cambodian people again. We Cambodians want a political solution, genuine peace, and national reconciliation. We do not want any sham peace that would last for just a couple of years, but peace and national reconciliation that will last forever without threat from the genocidal regime. In no case would our people agree to let the history of 1975 repeat itself.

Phnom Penh Says Enemy 'Thwarted' in Kompong Thom

BK0501050491 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Recently, the three Cambodian reactionary groups made several military assaults into some outlying forested and mountainous areas in Kompong Thom Province in an attempt to rob the people and topple our people's state power and replace it with the barbarous genocidal Pol Pot regime. But all the activities and frenzied schemes of these Pol Pot bandits were thwarted and smashed in a timely manner by our armed forces and people, inflicting successive defeats on them.

As a matter of fact, in their counterattacks launched on 23 December, our gallant armed forces on a defensive mission in the outlying forests of Prasat Sambo District in Kompong Thom Province have enhanced their vigilance and determination to create more feats for welcoming the coming 12th anniversary of our glorious 7 January national day. They killed 24 enemy soldiers, wounded some others, destroyed seven arms and ammunition caches and seven shelters, and seized a large quantity of war materiel.

Military Activities in Banteay Meanchey Reported

BK1101064791 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1117 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 10 Jan (SPK)—The armed forces of the border province of Banteay Meanchey, on 16 December repulsed an enemy attack in Thmei village, Nam Tao Commune, and killed nine assailants, including three Polpotist commanders and a Sonsannian commander. Two days earlier, they killed another seven enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded a number of others.

Furthermore, four soldiers from the three opposing Cambodian factions were put out of action in Pongro village, Spean Sreh Commune. In December, Phnum Srok District alone killed 48 enemy soldiers.

It should be recalled that there was a large-scale enemy offensive on 21 October 1989 in the northwest border regions, particularly against Phnum Srok District; hundreds were killed and prisoners were taken among the assailants.

Sihanouk Official Reacts to Phnom Penh Claims

BK1101111391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Unidentified station correspondent's interview with Keo Put-reaksmei, in charge of foreign affairs at the office of Sihanouk's personal representative in Cambodia and Asia; date not given—recorded]

[Summary] [Unidentified station correspondent] Recent events have shown that the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh regime has opposed and rejected the disarming of all Cambodian factions and maintained its state authorities, which is contrary to the UN peace plan. What are your own views?

[Keo Put-reaksmei] Following the 21-22 meeting in Paris, the Phnom Penh regime, despite a recent statement that it will accept the 28 August 1990 framework document and the 26 November document in Paris as the basis for solving the Cambodian problem, has again said it will not accept the UN role. "This shows that Phnom Penh has no goodwill whatsoever in solving the Cambodian problem and ending the suffering of innocent people and our Cambodian compatriots. This regime argued that it cannot accept these documents because the internal aspect is related to the so-called State of Cambodia's sovereignty and should be left to the Supreme National Council [SNC] to decide. The Phnom Penh regime made this move to prevent concrete measures from being taken to implement the document and solve the Cambodian problem."

"In fact, this is because Vietnam, the master, has not yet agreed to do so. Vietnam still occupies many Cambodian provinces; Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia; and Ho Chi Minh's recommendation is still there. Vietnam's interests in Cambodia are numerous. Vietnam's border has been moved into Cambodia; over a million Vietnamese nationals are in Cambodia; the Vietnamization of Cambodia continues. Thus, Vietnam has no intention of solving the issue. This is why the Phnom Penh regime has tried again and voiced its opposition to UN control to solve the Cambodian problem."

Hun Sen or Hor Namhong have been amassing money to buy houses abroad and there is corruption among the Phnom Penh leadership. They use the issue of the Khmer Rouge's return as a pretext and blame Samdech Sihanouk "because Vietnam knows that only the samdech demands 100 percent independence." "Agreeing to a UN role would mean genuinely free elections in which the Phnom Penh regime will certainly loose because the Phnom Penh side and the communist Vietnamese know how popular our Samdech Euv's is."

[Correspondent] Can you elaborate on the Phnom Penh regime's opposition to the disarming of troops of all Cambodian parties by the United Nations, claiming this does not guarantee that the genocidal regime will not return?

[Keo Put-reaksmei] Let us look closely at this claim. "Heng Samrin recently told the Cambodian people that the Khmer Rouge forces remain the same, that they are even more cruel than before. Judging from this statement, what the Heng Samrin forces and regime and the Vietnamese aggressors have been doing over the last more than 12 years to smash the Khmer Rouge forces and eliminate the Khmer Rouge party through force have not been achieved. Therefore, what hope does the Phnom Penh regime have in eliminating or destroying the Khmer Rouge troops through force in the future? Thus, we would like to ask this question: Why does the Phnom Penh regime oppose the UN role when it should have accepted it to guarantee that the Khmer Rouge regime will not return?" "Can one hope and believe in the Phnom Penh regime when it has failed to subdue the Khmer Rouge forces for 12 years? Therefore, only the United Nations with its effective armed forces can guarantee what the Phnom Penh regime fears."

"The effective measures envisaged by the United Nations have been worked out by the five major powers. We cannot believe that the five major powers have taken these measures to create or facilitate the Khmer Rouge forces' return to power, because everyone knows that the United Nations, particularly the five major powers, have never supported cruelty and massacre. Thus, what is the use of the five major powers supporting and helping the Khmer Rouge to control Cambodia?" "If the Phnom Penh regime still has such a doubt, it is not a genuine one. It is just a pretext to hinder the implementation of these effective documents in Cambodia. If Phnom Penh sincerely believes and allows the United Nations, particularly the five major powers, to implement these documents and supervise their implementation in Cambodia, there no need to worry about the return of any particular regime or group or the Khmer Rouge. On the contrary, it is their opposition to allowing the United Nations to disarm troops and control this process that would allow the Khmer Rouge—which the Phnom Penh regime fears—the opportunity to launch attacks and hinder the elections." It is a complete lie to cheat our people when Phnom Penh has told them it fears the Khmer Rouge's return, but opposes international troops disarming the four Cambodian parties' forces.

[Correspondent] Can you elaborate on Phnom Penh's claim that UN control in Cambodia during the transitional period violates Cambodia's sovereignty?

[Keo Put-reaksmei] One can ask this question: Is there sovereignty and independence in Cambodia now? The answer is no, because the country has been occupied by Vietnam for more than 12 years. "Phnom Penh's claim about the violation of its independence or sovereignty is nonsense, because the current State of Cambodia is not an independent or sovereign state. When the United Nations takes control temporarily, it will not violate the country's sovereignty or independence. That is because there is no independence and sovereignty. The United Nations cannot violate things that do not exist."

Phnom Penh's claim that its regime is a legitimate one is "completely erroneous." The Phnom Penh side raised this issue at the 21-22 Paris meeting, but was very clearly told by the two cochairmen that "the sovereignty being talked about is neither the sovereignty of the State of Cambodia under Vietnam's occupation, nor that of Democratic Kampuchea. Rather, it is the sovereignty of the entire Cambodian nation as represented by the SNC, which was set up on 10 September in Jakarta." And before its temporary control of Cambodia, it is this SNC which will hand over some power to the United Nations. "Thus, the United Nations does not violate Cambodia's sovereignty because it is the SNC, which represents Cambodia, that hands the power to the United Nations to solve the Cambodian problem and find peace for Cambodia."

[Correspondent] In the face of the Heng Samrin regime's opposition, what measures should be taken in the future?

[Keo Put-reaksmei] At the 21-22 meeting in Paris, the two cochairmen told us and the entire world that they will reconvene the Paris conference on Cambodia to continue the Cambodian peace process. "Thus, we still have hope on this issue because our tripartite movement, in cooperation with the two cochairmen and many other countries taking part in the forthcoming conference, will certainly contribute to advancing the peace process." The question is whether Vietnam and the Phnom Penh regime are "sincerely willing to accept the implementation of these documents or not" because if they continue to hinder this process, "peace in Cambodia will not be achieved yet."

"To conclude, I would like to inform and appeal to all our Cambodian compatriots, who are nationalists and independence-loving in and outside the country, to urge the Phnom Penh regime to sincerely accept these documents and stop raising excuses to hinder the documents of the five major powers to solve the Cambodian problem, as peace can only genuinely exist in Cambodia with the sincerity of the Phnom Penh regime and the Vietnamese aggressors."

"Therefore, compatriots, please continue to oppose and pressure the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin regime, a communist regime installed by the Vietnamese aggressors, to fully accept the implementation of the five-chapter document in order to restore peace in Cambodia in the near future."

KPNLF Official on Preventing Pol Pot Return

BK0901124991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Station correspondent's interview with Ieng Muli, secretary general of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and member of the Supreme National Council, on 5 January; place not given—recorded]

[Summary] [Correspondent] You told us of the outcome of the Paris meeting once already. Would you please tell us again of the progress made in the search for a Cambodian solution?

[Ieng Muli] As I have already informed you, the Paris meeting made a step forward as all Cambodian factions, including the Phnom Penh side and the Khmer Rouge, agreed to resume discussing the remaining contentious issues in the meeting of the coordinating committee to be held in the first quarter of 1991. I said this meeting was a step forward because without the outcome of this meeting, the coordinating committee meeting to be attended by 19 countries would not be possible and this would surely obstruct the recovening of the Paris international conference.

There were a number of unsolved issues at the meeting, as the Phnom Penh faction disagreed with the question of disarmement on the grounds it would return the genocidal Pol Pot regime to power. This rationale made by the Phnom Penh faction is unreasonable because it is this disarmament plan that can prevent the return of the genocidal regime. Under the plan, all four factions would be disarmed. No one will be able to seize power because only the UN peacekeeping force will be armed to prevent such actions from taking place. "For this reason, our side demanded that the UN personnel be fully armed for their own defense. They will not only be observers, but fully equipped personnel to help prevent any armed force from seizing power.

"We do not understand why Phnom Penh keeps saying that disarmament would let the Polpotist Khmer Rouge return to power. Personally, I do not believe the Khmer Rouge would be able to seize power since all will be disarmed. There is a proviso that all factions must agree to do so. Pol Pot will return if his faction refuses to be disarmed. But the Pol Pot group has made it clear to the United Nations that it has agreed to be disarmed. It has also agreed to let the United Nations check suspected troop hideouts or arms caches.

If Phnom Penh is certain about where the Polpotists are, they should inform the United Nations, and the United Nations will send troops to disarm them. Therefore, there are no means available allowing the Khmer Rouge return to power if all factions agree to be disarmed. I believe that this disarming of all factions is the best means, because when the United Nations comes in with its armed personnel, it will see what Cambodian groups are still armed, thus making them illegal. It would then go in to forcibly disarm them."

My opinion is that if the Phnom Penh regime is opposed to the UN disarmament plan, it is not because it is afraid that the Pol Pot regime would return to power. Rather, Vietnam is afraid this plan would make it impossible for their troops supporting the Phnom Penh regime in Cambodia to continue hiding to control Cambodia. For this reason, Vietnam has to force the Phnom Penh regime to reject the plan.

I appeal to Cambodians in Phnom Penh to show patriotism in wishing to bring independence to our country and peace to our people.

The Phnom Penh faction also raised once more at the Paris meeting the issue of the genocidal regime. This should not be done, since it had already been agreed that the Big Five plan had measures to prevent the genocidal group from returning to power. In my opinion, there are two methods to prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to power: First, all Cambodian factions must fully accept the Big Five peace plan as a step toward finding a political solution and allowing the people to decide through elections; and second, to see to it that any future peace agreement is implemented. This can be done if each faction refrains from setting too many conditions at the coming talks expected to be held soon.

I propose that a future government democratically born out of the will of the people, something that I would call a legal authority, set up a tribunal to try those responsible for the genocide in Cambodia, including the Pol Pot group and those in the current Phnom Penh regime who once collaborated with Pol Pot.

In conclusion, I would like to appeal to all Cambodian patriots, especially those involved in the present war in Cambodia, to place national interests above the interests of their own factions or their own individual groups and to think more of the peace-starved Cambodian people.

VONADK Updates Report on Chong Kal Seizure

BK0701082191 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 6 Jan 91

["Report on attack and liberation of Chong Kal District township in Oddar Meanchey Province"]

[Text] At 0530 [2230 GMT] on 4 January, our national resistance forces together with our people and militiamen, fraternal Cambodian soldiers, and administrative officials, who have been forced to serve the Vietnamese enemies, raided the Chong Kal District township in Oddar Meanchey Province. We divided our forces into three prongs. The first prong attacked the Vietnamese-puppet command post at Prey Thom; the second prong attacked Chong Kal District township; and the third prong attacked the Vietnamese-puppet military police unit called A-3, which is the defense belt of Chong Kal District township. After fighting for 30 minutes, our national resistance forces smashed, liberated, and took full control of this township. As a result:

We killed 20 Vietnamese enemies and their puppets; wounded 16 others; destroyed 40 AK's, seven B-40's, 11 B-41's, six RPD's, four 60-mm mortars, four 82-mm mortars, three DK-82 guns, three DK-75 guns, a 122-mm artillery, four Goryunov guns, two pistols, three ammunition depots, an arms depot containing 500 pieces of guns, two rice warehouses containing 400 sacks of rice, two paddy warehouses containing 3,000 metric tons of paddy, two war materiel warehouses, four district command posts, 60 barracks, two C-25 field radios,, three C-105M field radios, three ICOM walkie-talkies, four trucks, three bulldozers, two power generators, and two video players.

We seized 84 assorted guns—24 AK's, 11 B-40's and B-41's, 10 RPD's, two RPK's, two 60-mm mortars, two 82-mm mortars, a DK-75, a DK-42, 23 M-16's, and two pistols—(? two) maps, and a large quantity of war materiel.

As Chong Kal District has been liberated. Samraong District, which is the provincial town of Oddar Meanchey Province, has become totally isolated and encircled from all directions. Moreover, over 90 percent of the people deserted Samraong District. Militiamen have also continued to flee from this district with their families.

Indonesia

PLO, Iraqi Envoys Cite 'Realistic' Gulf Stand

BK1001154491 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Palestinian Ambassador Ribhi Hallum and Iraqi Ambassador Zaki 'Abd al-Hamid al-Hubba described Indonesia's stand toward the Gulf crisis as realistic, objective, and balanced. Speaking at a meeting organized by the Association of Middle East Watchers in Jakarta this afternoon, the Iraqi ambassador said his government still hopes the Gulf crisis can be solved through dialogue, and is ready to make sacrifices to solve the Palestinian problem.

The Iraqi ambassador, however, stressed that dialogues must be held between equal partners, without threat and pressure, and cover all Middle East issues comprehensively. As long as the Palestinian problem is not solved, the Middle East will continue to experience upheavals and conflicts, including the civil war in Lebanon which has raged on since 1976.

Further on Singapore Prime Minister's Visit

Goh Gives News Conference

BK1001134191 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong has attached great importance to a resolution adopted by Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia to develop an industrial estate in the Triangle of Growth covering Bintan in Indonesia, Singapore, and Johor in Malaysia. The conviction that such a project will be successful is very important. The Singapore prime minister made the remarks at a news conference at Wisma Negara [the State Guesthouse] in Jakarta this evening.

On efforts to strengthen Indonesia-Singapore relations, Goh Chok Tong stressed the importance of personal contacts in establishing mutual trust among leaders and officials of the two countries. At the news conference, moderated by the Director General of Press and Graphics Development Subrata, the Singapore leader also elaborated on development of the Batam, Bintan, and Bulan Islands for industrial purposes. He said the development of Bintan Island in Riau Province as an industrial estate will employ 40,000 Indonesian workers. Speaking about Batam Island, he expressed the belief that the island has turned into a tourist destination for Singapore tourists.

Before returning home this evening, the Singapore prime minister and his wife bid farewell to the president and Mrs. Suharto at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace.

Commentary Hails Talks

BK1101023991 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The results of talks between President Suharto and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in Jakarta have shown that the two countries are determined to further enhance existing close friendly relations, cooperation, and mutual understanding. The two countries, which are fellow ASEAN members and close neighbors, agree that the close relationship between the two nations and countries will positively contribute to economic development and peace in this region. Indeed, economic relations and cooperation between Indonesia and Singapore have developed rapidly in recent years.

Initiatives for the development of the triangle of growth covering Singapore, Riau, and Johor are being translated into reality. Indonesia and Singapore have also signed an economic cooperation agreement within the context of the development of the Riau Islands and an investment protection agreement. Cooperation in development projects on Batam and Bintan Islands in Riau Province is concrete evidence of the attention of two countries to long-term friendly relations and is simultaneously a strong indication that the two countries can and will undertake broad economic cooperation.

Obviously, the positive bilateral relations will in turn strengthen ASEAN cooperation as a whole. Such efforts are of great importance, particularly in response to the rapidly and fundamentally changing international situation in political, economic, and security fields. The world is still worried over uncertain developments in the Middle East. War using sophisticated weapons is not unlikely to erupt in the region at any time. The world economy will be greatly affected by the Gulf crisis, but more so the world's economic activities in 1991 are showing downward trends, which may even lead to a world economic recession. An impasse in the Uruguay Round of talks in Brussels, where efforts were made to create a free and open world trade system, may lead to the emergence of exclusive trading blocs. North American economic blocs—the United States and Canada and lately the United States and Mexico—and the European Economic Community are less encouraging trends because these economic blocs are only inward-looking and intended to protect their own markets.

In response to the possible emergence of trading and economic blocs, the ASEAN member countries need to strengthen unity and a sense of togetherness through mutually beneficial cooperation instead of forming an exclusive bloc which runs counter to the goals of the formation of this regional organization. The steps taken by Indonesia and Singapore toward economic cooperation through development projects on Batam and Bintan Islands are a breakthrough which should set an example for similar cooperation among the other ASEAN member countries.

Trade Minister, Malaysian Counterpart Hold Talks

BK0801160991 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin Siregar held talks with the visiting Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, Malaysian minister of international trade and industry, in Jakarta today. He said he would contact other members of ASEAN nations to consider a Malaysian proposal for an East Asian trade bloc. He said they will discuss the matter within the framework of ASEAN.

According to Datuk Sri Rafidah, she discussed the matter in detail with Mr. Arifin, Coordinating Minister for Economy Radius Prawiro, Industry Minister Hartarto, Junior Trade Minister Sudrajat Jiwandono, and Junior Agriculture Minister Syarifudin Baharsyah.

She also explained the proposal to President Suharto during a courtesy call earlier today.

Laos

Vientiane Reception Marks Cambodian National Day

BK0801112091 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 8 (KPL)—The Ambassador of the State of Cambodia to Laos Mr Long Kem hosted at his embassy here yesterday a reception marking the 12th national day of his country.

Attending the reception as guests of honour were Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs Phoun Sipaseut, Minister of Justice Kou Souvannamethi, who is also vice- president of the Lao-Cambodian Friendship Association, members of the party Central Committee, ministers and deputy-ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Laos.

Addressing the audience, the Cambodian ambassador reaffirmed his party and government's stance on the solution to the Cambodian issue by peaceful and equitable means.

The Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut on the occasion also acclaimed the all-round achievements over the past 12 years of the Cambodian people and welcomed the national reconciliation policy of the State of Cambodia, stressing that the settlement of the Cambodian issue must involve the question of the right to self-determination of its people.

He also hoped that the countries interested in the issue would truly contribute to making the proposed documents on the solution to this issue of the UN Security Council members and other bodies effective.

Khamtai Siphandon Sends Greetings to Tie Banh

BK0901144091 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 9 (KPL)—General Khamtai Siphandon, minister of national defence of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Replublic] has reaffirmed in his message of greetings sent on the 12th national day of the State of Cambodia to his Cambodian counterpart General Tie Banh that the ties of special friendship and militant solidarity between the Lao People's Army and the Cambodian People's Army will more than ever be strengthened.

The Lao defence minister also acclaimed the continuous growth of the Cambodian People's Army and its heroic deeds together with the Cambodian people's in national liberation and in the defence of revolutionary gain, constantly contributing to the struggle for peace and stability in the region and to the strengthening of the solidarity among the three Indochinese nations.

PASASON Reviews 1990 Economic Success

BK1001003591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Undated PASASON article: "Some Economic Achievements in 1990"]

[Text] The past year was of not only political but also economic significance because it was the final year for implementation of the second five-year state development plan. The relentless implementation nationwide of the party's restructuring policy in 1990 resulted in the gradual improvement of the national economy, an increase in overall production, a broadening of domestic markets, and the step-by-step establishment of ties with foreign markets. At the same time, the year saw new favorable trends and factors emerging in various sectors. Many localities and provinces, especially the rice-cultivating areas, increased production. For example, the combined production of monsoon and dry-season rice in Vientiane Municipality exceeded the demand for the local consumption and left a certain amount for storage. The rice acreage increased by tens of thousands of hectares compared with 1976. The acreage for dry-season rice cultivation alone registered an almost sixfold increase. Moreover, the cultivation of industrial crops and trees was extensively expanded with higher production. One of the praiseworthy achievements is the cultivation of both monsoon and dry-season rice.

Animal husbandry, in particular cattle raising, was also promoted and well organized. Modern technologies were also applied in this area. Thanks to cooperation rendered by the people in vaccinating domestic animals, the cattle population increased twofold compared with 1976. Another factor contributing to the achievements in agricultural development is the new agricultural policy adopted by the party and state and the application of the contractual production mechanism, which allows farmers to determine their own production, promotes the two-way service, and correctly allocates land and forested areas to farmers.

As for the achievements in the promotion of industry and traditional handicrafts, the production of processed forestry products, agricultural tools, and construction materials also increased. After shifting to the business accounting system, many enterprises also operated more efficiently.

In 1990, the total sum of foreign investment in Laos up to 1990 was more than $189.8 million in three main forms: namely contractual, joint ventures, and wholly foreign-owned business ventures. Foreign businessmen, so far, have invested in the following sectors: garments for export, agriculture, import-export, hotels, tourism, timber-rattan processing industry, banking, consultancy, building and maintenance of communication routes, industry, and handicrafts. From 1986 to 1990, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic received foreign aid and loans totaling more than $961.6 million.

Philippines

U.S. Reaction to Stand on Bases Rejected

HK1001132191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 10 Jan 91

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, Jan 10 (AFP)—Philippine negotiators stood firm Thursday on a five-year phaseout for U.S. bases in the country, maintaining a heated deadlock that the Americans said may only be resolved after the Gulf crisis ends.

Spokesmen for both panels again traded barbs on the second day of the fifth round of talks on the future of the largest U.S. military facilties overseas, with the specter of war in the Gulf figuring prominently in the exchange. The chief negotiators, U.S. President George Bush's special envoy Richard Armitage and Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, met one-on-one Thursday as the impasse continued, but their spokesmen gave no details.

The United States is seeking a 10- to 12-year gradual reduction of its military presence in this former colony, with a small force remaining, but the Philippines wants no American troops at all remaining after five years. Rejecting stern warnings from Washington that its hardline stand could irreparably harm bilateral relations, Philippine panel spokesman Rafael Alunan said Thursday that the U.S. reaction was "absurd" and "insensitive."

"The stand we have taken, that of a phaseout of the U.S. military facilities, is a pro-Filipino stance. Just because we do not agree with the U.S. at the negotiating table does not mean we are anti-American," he said. He was reacting to U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrager, who assailed the host country's stance at the talks on Wednesday, saying Filipinos were being confrontational as "Americans prepare to fight and die in the Middle East."

Recalling that the U.S. statement at the start of the talks that Washington was ready to quickly pull out the bases if told to do so, Mr. Alunan said: "Why then should they now contend that a five-year phaseout can only do our relationship irreparable harm?" "We firmly believe that our phaseout stand addresses their needs responsibly and realistically," he added.

Mr. Schrager said a five-year timetable was "too short" and "difficult for us to do," stressing that options must be kept open for continued U.S. access to cope with unforeseen developments. "Nobody can predict what the world will look like," he said. "Nobody has a crystal ball."

Mr. Schrager said another round of talks was likely because Mr. Armitage was due back in Washington before the January 15 deadline for Iraqi troops to leave Kuwait or risk being attacked by U.S.-led multinational forces. The two sides have given themselves till the end of the month to forge a new treaty on Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four support facilities, or dismantle them when the current U.S. lease runs out in September.

"I think we'll just have to see what happens after January 15 in terms of the potential conflict in the Gulf, and the availability of our negotiators in the event of a major crisis," Mr. Schrager said. "We've never linked the two directly but it seems to me that you cannot talk about bilateral negotations on the bases unless it is seen in the context of what is seen in the world today," he said. Mr. Schrager said Washington was "tremendously preoccupied with the Gulf" and "it's difficult to get anybody's attention on anything other than the Gulf."

Agreement Reached on Turnover of 2 Facilities

HK1101115591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Manila, Jan 11 (AFP)—The United States has tentatively agreed to turn over a radar facility and a naval station to the Philippines in September, it was announced here Friday after a modest breakthrough in their bases talks.

Spokesmen for both panels issued conciliatory statements after two days of heated language in the fifth round of talks on the future of six U.S. military installations in this former colony. The talks were to adjourn Saturday.

Philippine spokesman Rafael Alunan said that the United States agreed to turn over the Wallace Air Station, a joint radar facility on northern Luzon Island, to the Philippine Air Force (PAF) on September 17. On the same day, the Philippine Navy will assume control of the San Miguel naval communications station, located near Subic on western Luzon.

But the fate of the two largest facilities, Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, as well as the duration of a future agreement remained unresolved, and the next round of negotiations had not been set. Both panels said they were still out to forge a new bases treaty by the end of the month, or a few days later, but U.S. officials earlier said they were still awaiting developments in the Gulf before resuming the talks.

The Philippines wants all U.S. forces out within five years after the current U.S. lease on the bases expires on September 16, while the United States is seeking a 10 to 12-year gradual pullout with a small military presence at the end.

Mr. Alunan stressed that the agreement on Wallace and San Miguel was tentative, and "nothing is final until a treaty is signed." U.S. spokesman Stanley Schrager, who earlier took the Philippine panel to task for its allegedly confrontational stance, said there was "forward movement" in Friday's talks between technical panels of both countries.

"Both chief negotiators indicated they were pleased with the results of the day's discussions and look forward to continued progress tomorrow," he added. He also announced that Washington was prepared to turn over to Manila medical and heavy equipment from U.S. facilities in California and Japan "as a sign of our commitment to economic development and the strengthening of democracy in the Philippines."

Mr. Alunan said that the Wallace takeover, the Philippines will assume responsibility for the country's air defense but American troops would be allowed access to the base for "technical support" and training until the end of the still unresolved phaseout period, he said.

At San Miguel, U.S. personnel and their dependents will be allowed to live on base until alternative housing is built in Subic, the main ship repair and maintenance facility of the Japan-based U.S. 7th Fleet.

The two smaller facilities whose future has not yet been resolved are Camp John Hay, a recreation and communication station in the northern mountain city of Baguio, and the Camp O'Donnel radio transmitter station near Clark. Clark hosts the U.S. 13th Air Force, with two F-4 fighter squadrons. Some 17,000 U.S. servicemen are stationed at all the facilities.

U.S. Accused of 'Insensitivity' in Negotiations

HK1101025691 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 11 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur I. Bariuad]

[Text] The Philippine bases panel yesterday took strong exception to the American "ultimatum" issued

Wednesday and challenged the United States "to put into action" earlier avowals that it would "abide by any decision" taken by the Philippine government over the future of U.S. military installations in the country and accused the U.S. of "insensitivity to the legitimate goals of a developing nation."

Philippine panel spokesman Rafael Alunan, in a press briefing, said: "This is our land, and our duty as its citizens is to defend its interests at all times. When we strive to assert our laws and advance our aspirations, our acts are not meant to be hostile to any other nation. To think otherwise only displays a narrow view of the value of RP-U.S. relations as well as an insensitivity to the legitimate goals of a developing nation."

"I believe that to criticize our phaseout stand in the name of "Americans preparing to fight and die in the Gulf" is insensitive and in poor taste," Alunan said. Alunan decried the U.S. statement made Wednesday that the "terminal phaseout" of U.S. facilities here could mean an anti- American stance and disregards U.S. security needs even as it prepares to confront a major political and military endeavor in the Middle East. The statement was short of calling the Filipinos "ingrates."

"Let me reiterate, therefore, for their (U.S.) benefit and the benefit of our people: the stand we have taken, that of a phaseout of the U.S. military facilities, is a pro-Filipino stance," Alunan said. "Just because we do not agree with the U.S. at the negotiating table does not mean we are anti-American." Alunan reasoned that such thinking is "absurd, for the same reason that if the U.S. disagrees with the Philippines, it does not necessarily follow that they are anti-Filipino."

However, U.S. panel spokesman Stanley Schrager said that the "statement yesterday (Wednesday) was not intended to be confrontational and was not intended as an ultimatum. It was a candid assessment of Mr Armitage's views in a sincere and forthright manner."

"We're certainly not categorizing the phaseout position of the Philippine government or the terminal phaseout position of the government as an anti-American position, and we have said that we're still going to retain our friendship whether the bases stay or go," Schrager said. "And if we're simply unable to reach an agreement, as we've said many times before, we will leave with our dignity and our pride intact," he added.

Alunan pointed out that at the start of the negotiations, the U.S. "declared that they would abide by any decision we would make regarding the facilities, even if it would mean an immediate pullout." "Why then should they now contend that a five-year phaseout can only do our relationship irreparable harm?" he asked. "Where then is the spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation with which both sides began these talks?"

Alunan claimed that the technical panel talks since December have remained-deadlocked on fundamental issues such as the status of forces agreement (SOFA) or the non-military bases related issues because the "U.S. has refused to budge from its position," while Filipino negotiators have done their best to meet them halfway on such touchy issues.

"The U.S. has repeatedly vowed respect for our sovereignty and our laws, but we have not yet seen any indication that they are ready to put this into practice in the SOFA discussions," he added. Alunan stressed that a "new relationship clearly cannot flourish if this is the level of cooperation the U.S. is willing to give."

This was again countered by Schrager, saying that there was no breakdown, impasse or deadlock in the negotiations because discussions are still going on. He said that there were disagreements on some points which are past of the negotiating process but said they "keep on narrowing down the differences."

Alunan said that there were inequities in the old RP-U.S. relationship which the Philippine government wants to correct. "The Philippines hosted U.S. facilities for 90 years, not to further our interests, but to serve theirs," he said.

Alunan cited several historical inequities in the 40-years partnership with the U.S. "In the past four decades, we have hosted these bases despite the risk of involving ourselves in the nuclear conflict." He stressed that the Philippines, "by any accounting, (we) have done more than our fair share for the cause of peace." But Schrager, quoting former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, cautioned: "Those who would allow the past to preside over the present run the risk of loosing the future." "I don't think we want to loose this future, I think we can talk about the past decades of U.S.-Philippne relationship as long as we want and certainly there are inequities but what we are trying to do now is to look to the future and we want to do this together," Schrager stressed.

The fate of four smaller installations—Camp O'Donnel, San Miguel Naval Communications Station, Camp John Hay, and Wallace Air Station—is still being discussed by the two panels although there have been tentative agreements over the return of Camp O'Donnell in Capas and San Miguel Communications Station in Zambales.

Senator Favors Compensation for Bases Use

HK1001122391 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Senator Rene Saguisag supported the Philippine panel's position regarding the bases compensation issue. He added that there is no reason for the U.S. bases to remain if they do not pay for the rent. However, he favors their retention for a short duration if the United States will pay for the $23-billion Philippine foreign debt.

Congressmen Assail Negotiator Armitage

HK1101050691 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Several congressmen have condemned an alleged insult to the Philippines by U.S. special negotiator Richard Armitage. In a manifesto released by the House progressive bloc, the legislators called for the Philippine negotiating panel to rebuff Armitage's group so that the country will not be insulted further. The congressmen also impugned Armitage's diplomatic ability because of his linkage of the Gulf crisis to the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. military bases talks.

NDF Offers 'Liquidation' of Iraqi Enemies

HK1101093191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Vice Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Rodolfo Biazon disclosed an offer of cooperation made by the National Democratic Front [NDF] to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. According to Biazon, the NDF allegedly offered the use of its armed partisans for the liquidation of Europeans, Americans, and other nationals living in the Philippines whose countries have sent forces to the Middle East against Iraq. Biazon's statement was confirmed by Philippine National Police [PNP] Director General Cesar Nazareno. However, Nazareno assured that the PNP and the military have measures in place to prevent the plan.

Adviser on Possible Entry of Pro-Iraqi Terrorists

HK1101104391 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Jan 91

[By Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] The government is closely monitoring the possible entry into the country of terrorists supportive of Iraq. National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto said there is a possibility for so-called pro-Iraqi terrorists to enter the country, like what happened in other countries. In an interview with Malacanang reporters, Ileto said:

[Begin recording in English] [Ileto] Well, that has been discussed also, but we are very careful not to lay the blame on anyone unless we are sure. But our eyes and ears are open on that matter. There is a possibility that this had been done before in other countries and there's no reason why if they want to do this kind of danger.

[Reporter] Sir, do you have security measures?

[Ileto] Well, definitely we are more... [changes thought] make our ears and eyes open. And if there be any need for it, definitely we will take action.

[Reporter] Does that mean you are restricting the entry of Iraqis?

[Ileto] No. At this time we are not restricting entries of people. It will be taken on a case to case basis.

[Reporter] Are you putting them under surveillance?

[Ileto] I won't use the word surveillance. But I guess all of us ... [changes thought] I have to be watched on security matters. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Ileto clarified the Philippine Government will not bar the entry to the country by Iraqi nationals. He said the issue was among those discussed during the National Security Council meeting in Malacanang in relation to the Gulf crisis.

Surveillance of Middle East Nationals Ordered

HK1101103991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Jan 91

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo has ordered close surveillance of all foreigners arriving in the country from Middle East countries, following Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's threat to send terrorist groups to launch sabotage and assassinations in countries supporting the United Nation's resolution. Commissioner Domingo said all Middle East nationals arriving in the country are being monitored and placed under intelligence surveillance to know their purpose in coming to the country. There was a slight increase in the arrivals of foreigners from Middle East countries, Domingo added. She admitted the difficulty in monitoring the arrival of foreigners, especially those from Iraq, because almost all the Middle East nationals look alike. The other problem is that the Iraqi nationals use other passports. The Commission on Immigration and the military intelligence community are together in this effort of watching Iraqi nationals entering the country, Domingo said.

Airline Security Personnel on Terrorist Alert

HK1101030391 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 11 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

[By Jose Macaspac, Jessica Domingo & Efren Dayauon]

[Text] Airline security personnel worldwide have been put on alert following confirmed reports that Iraqi terrorist groups have spread out all over the world, Asian cities included, on still unspecified assassination and bombing missions. American carriers and U.S.-bound airlines are said to be primary targets.

In the meantime, assurances on the welfare of Filipino contract workers in the Gulf area were aired yesterday by a senator visiting Saudi Arabia and a top labor department official who said Filipino workers would be evacuated immediately out of the war zones in case of fighting and that the United Arab Emirates has expressed willingness to accept evacuating workers from Saudi Arabia and other gulf states.

In still another development, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus still held out hopes for peace in the

Middle East despite the failure of the Geneva meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker II and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. In a statement sent to media, Manglapus said: "As we prepare for the possibility of hostilities, we should not stop hoping for the possibility of peace."

"Our international airline security sources have informed us that terrorists are carrying international passports, also indicating that these terrorists have already reached Bombay, India," Victor Erese, chairman of the Airline Operators' Council [AOC] disclosed after a hurriedly called meeting of the AOC. Because of this and in the light of the collapse of peace initiatives between the American and Iraqi negotiators, the AOC decided to adopt stricter security measures.

Erese also said that special targets of these terror squads are the American airlines and all US-bound airlines.

The AOC chairman said that the stricter measures are absolutely necessary because of the difficulty of identifying these terrorists who are using international passports. It is also highly probable that these Iraqi special squads could be using strategic cities such as Bombay as a staging point from where they could easily disperse to other Asian targets or as a landing point to other destinations including the mainland United States, another airline executive said.

Among the measures adopted by the airlines are the use of the inner parking bays for airplanes, instead of using bays nearer to the streets fronting the terminal. Also, twenty-four hour patrols of the perimeter fence and the use of bomb-sniffing dogs by the military were requested by the airline operators. "We are on alert status now," said Erese, adding that airlines all over the world are on instructions to forward identification and photographs of known as well as suspected terrorists.

He said that the only problem would be in identifying terrorists with no known previous records, or who use other passports instead of Iraqi passports. Some airlines, Erese said, have taken air marshalls on board such as the Kuwaiti and Pakistani airlines, Luis Alcantara, a Kuwaiti airline executive, said.

Stricter security will also be adopted on U.S.-bound planes such as Northerwest Airlines, United Airlines and Continental Air Micronesia. Also, all incoming passengers on board Gulf-based airlines such as the Emirates, Egypt Air, Gulf Air and Pakistan Airways will also be screened thoroughly at their port of origin and upon arrival at the NAIA [Ninoy Aquino International Airport].

Senator Santanina Rasul, wife of Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Abraham Rasul, who is in Saudi Arabia of official mission, said that the Philippine embassy there had already dispatched a special team to known military targets in Saudi Arabia where thousands of Filipinos are working.

Rasul said the team, headed by Bill Rashid Salih, had been ordered to the eastern province where ARAMCO [Arab-American Oil Company] and other industries and oil refineries are located. The team will also visit members of the Philippine medical mission now stationed in different Saudi Hospitals.

Although it is widely believed that the Kingdom would not be a war zone when armed conflict between Iraq and the U.S. and its allies erupt, the Philippine embassy nevertheless felt it is imperative that its officials should be in areas considered "critical," Rasul said.

Rasul said the embassy would try to prevent panic among the workers and bring them to safe places as soon as the war erupts. Meanwhile, Acting Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma disclosed that the United Arab Emirates is opening its doors to Filipinos who will be evacuated from Saudi Arabia if the situation there deteriorates and fighting breaks out between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational forces.

6-Point Program Established for Gulf War

HK1101024791 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Jan 91 pp 1, 18

[by Wilma A. Yamzon]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos announced yesterday a six-point program aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of the Gulf crisis on the country's social and economic conditions. Ramos said the program is part of a contingency plan drawn up by the government to alleviate the anticipated hardships of the people during a crisis spawned by a Gulf war.

He said the program calls for the mobilization of civilian volunteer groups to help and cooperate with municipal, city, and provincial governments; dispatch of mobilization teams; strengthening of information network; registration of vehicles in barangays; mobilization of a volunteer transport system; and establishment of a community identification card system. He said the program will prevent panic buying and hoarding by traders and implement the government's call for people's cooperation.

He said one of the five task forces formed by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) will be based at Camp Crame in Quezon City. its focus will be on freedom and security. Ramos said he had directed military units to ensure maximum protection of government-private facilities, including radio and television stations and communications network, power generation facilities belonging to the National Power Corp., seaports and airports.

Other security measures have been added to the Gulf crisis program but the defense department will not reveal these for the meantime, he said. Ramos told a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo that the defense program is aimed at augmenting and assisting local government units and agencies in the implementation of specific contingency plans concerning food, fuel, and security of the country. He said it will also help mobilize the community and the citizens in extending immediate services to facilities the delivery of basic items.

Ramos Assures Country's Protection in Gulf War

HK1101051191 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has given assurances that the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] is ready to protect national security in the face of the threatened war in the Middle East. According to Secretary Ramos, the AFP implemented several measures as soon as the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz broke down in Geneva, Switzerland. He said the measures include extending the necessary protection to vital government installations and major public facilities.

As Ramos gave assurances on the country's security, citizens responded positively to the latest measures and stepped up vigilance throughout the country, ready to report to the authorities on any suspicious occurrences.

Need for Government, Opposition Consensus Cited

HK1101120191 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 11 Jan 91

[By Gabby Salcedo]

[Text] Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III cited the importance of a consensus between the government and the opposition regarding the preparations for a possible Gulf war. He made the statement in a briefing that followed the National Security Council meeting attended by Vice President Salvador Laurel, opposition leaders Juan Ponce Enrile, and Salvador Escudero III. Secretary Gomez said the opposition may not agree to all the government's plans but what counts is that they are heard and their recommendations are integrated in the overall contingency plans of the government. Here is part of the interview with Secretary Gomez.

[Begin recording in English] [Reporter] Can you be specific?

[Gomez] Well, I cannot be very specific to you because I cannot yet declassify the entire scenario of [words indistinct] and security. But there was widespread consensus in whatever clarification they requested, in whatever comments were made contributory to this contingency plan by members of the entire group there, such as for instance concerns of labor, will also be incorporated. But let me just say that there was widespread acceptance of the contingency plan as presented including the clarifications that were rejected. And as I said, they come [word indistinct] with the fact that, number one, there is in fact a contingency plan. And I suppose you will recall that just about three weeks ago the government was being accused of not having any.

[Reporter's question indistinct]

[Gomez] That is not up for me to say. But I think you can claim that from the remarks that have been given out to you. You will remember that a crisis forum was just held yesterday and they had a batch of recommendations which Vice President Laurel presented at the outset of the meeting which was accepted and I guess—how shall I express this—Vice President Laurel was very pleased with the remark that President Aquino said that the proposals will definitely be given due consideration and she assured the vice president that it is being accepted with an attitude of complementation. And at the same time the president said that she is, in fact, aware that many of these proposals... [end recording]

Defense, Private Sectors Consider Emergency Plans

HK1101024991 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Jan 91 pp 1, 7

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] The government will implement a national identification (ID) system as part of contingency measures for the Gulf crisis. This was bared yesterday by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos as he assured the people that a "security action plan" had been adopted by the military and the police to stabilize the economic and political situation in case a shooting war erupts in the Middle East.

The ID system was proposed by private groups and non-government organizations (NGOs) during the multisectoral seminar-workshop on the Gulf crisis last week. In fact, the ID system has already been adopted by some communities in Muntinlupa "to facilitate social mobilization" and assist local-government officials in implementing community-based contingency plans.

Ramos said local officials were empowered by President Aquino, under Executive Order 444, to organize joint government-civilian task forces to set into motion contingency plans to cushion the economic and political impact of the Gulf crisis. Ramos said the government's contingency plans were focused on maintaining peace and order and security in the country, which includes containing threats posed by communist guerrillas, ultrarightists rebels, separatists and even common criminals.

Based on security plans, security of government and vital private installations like media facilities, telecommunications, power, fuel depots, distribution and transport systems as well as government offices like provincial capitols and town halls gets priority. He said airports and seaports, banks, business establishments and other vital facilities would also be adequately protected.

Further developments:

—The League of Filipino Students (LFS) condemned all government contingency plans as a "cover-up" for helping the United States deal with the Middle East. LFS president Nathaniel Santiago said the group is specifically against the sending of Filipino medical mission to the Gulf because these teams would act as a "desert shield" for the American forces.

—Quezon City Councilor Francis Pangilinan urged the national government to order the creation of crisis-management committees in the municipal and city levels to prevent possible abuse of the blanket authorities given by the President to local chief executives.

—Luis Santos, chairman of the National Peace and Order Council (NPOC), called on nongovernment organizations and other civic groups to further enhance the capabilities of law-enforcement agencies in carrying out the state contingency plans. Among the activities lined up for the private sector are: organizing price-monitoring teams, creation of rumor alert centers to allay fears that might lead to panic-buying, assisting in the registration of fuel-users to include cars, motorized bancas and other equipment, helping detect criminality and mobilizing private transport facilities.

—Philippine National Police (PNP) director general Cesar Nazareno ordered the police to wage a campaign against hoarders of prime commodities intended for the public "solely for their personal use." He called on the public to report immediately to law-enforcement agencies hoarding of foodstuff, fuel, medicine and other basic items like sugar, rice and cooking oil.

OEA Says Gas Stocks Good; Other Petrol Not

HK0901032391 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 6

[By Juan V. Sarmiento, Jr.]

[Text] The Philippines has plenty of gasoline but is precariously low on diesel and cooking gas, according to data from the Office of Energy Affairs (OEA). The OEA reported that the country's inventory of gasoline was good for 97 days compared to 49 days for diesel and just 19 days for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

OEA Executive Director Wenceslao de la Paz, who is also presidential assistant on energy said the supply of kerosene would last for 77 days. The supply of other petroleum products could last 49 days.

Meanwhile, Manila Mayor Mel Lopez ordered yesterday the registration of all motor vehicles and equipment in the city to prepare for gas rationing in case of a full-blown war in the Gulf area. Lopez ordered all barangay chairmen to oversee the registration. He also appealed to consumers to avoid panic-buying since this will only lead to artifical shortages, saying there is enough supply for normal consumption.

The country's supply of crude and petroleum products was down to less than two months at 58 days, said De la Paz. He said the current demand for petroleum products had gone down from the November level of 226,000 barrels per day because of the higher oil prices set by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) in December.

Data from the OEA showed that the supply of gasoline in December and Janaury was double that of demand. De la Paz said the current stockpile of gasoline was 4.830 million barrels while the demand for December and January was estimated at 2.216 million barrels. The demand for diesel in December and January was placed at 4.364 million barrels while the supply is 5.784 million barrels. Industry sources said the country's supply of gasoline increased because of the slackening demand as a result of the price increases last month. However, they said, the supply of diesel would further drop because motorists were shifting from the more expensive gasoline to diesel, which was about P6 [Philippine pesos] cheaper per liter.

A government plan to cut deliveries to customers by half in the event of a war in the Persian Gulf would stretch the country's supply of all petroleum products, according to the OEA. Under the rationing scheme envisioned by the Energy Operations Board (EOB), the volume of gasoline to be allocated to consumers would drop by half from 2.216 million barrels in December and January to 1.108 million barrels. As a result gasoline supply would register a surplus of 3.722 million barrels for the given period.

In case of war in the Persian Gulf, the volume to be allocated to private transport would be cut by 52.5 percent. From a demand of 1.567 million barrels for December and January, allocation would be cut to 744,000 barrels. Electric consumption, domestic shipping and aviation, and industry would also suffer 50 percent cuts in gasoline allocation. The food sector and public transport would suffer lower cuts at 20 percent each.

Additional Crude Oil Expected

HK0801033491 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jan 91 p 6

[By staff member Rowena M. Orejana]

[Text] The three oil companies are expecting shipments of about four million barrels this month, or about 18 days of additional crude supply. The Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) is expecting a shipment of 1.8 million barrels while Caltex will load one million barrels in its Batangas refinery tomorrow and another one million from Dubai. Pilipinas shell Petroleum Corp, is expecting about one million barrels this month.

Manuel A. Estrella, PNOC president, said the state-owned oil firm was able to load 900,000 barrels of oil last December from Iran. He also expressed optimism that the country will still be able to source crude from Iran even if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf. "We are optimistic that there will be crude coming from the Middle East since there are also ports outside of the Persian Gulf," he said.

At present, the country's oil inventory is expected to last 60 days.

Caltex spokesman Virgilio Pantaleon said that using a consumption figure of 226,000 barrels a month, Caltex's oil supply could last 36 days. "However, we reckon it on the basis of our refining schedule which is 55,000 barrels per day. This means an inventory of 58 days as of Monday," Pantaleon said. He explained that the supply situation was very fluid since the three oil firms draw from their supply on a daily basis. The inventory would increase or decrease depending on whether there is a draw out or a shipment.

Shell spokesman Facundo Roco said the firm's inventory was between 60 to 65 days. Presidential Assistant on Energy Affairs Wenceslao R. de la Paz earlier placed the country's inventory at 58 days as of end-1990. He said the government came up with the inventory figure based on a consumption of 226,000 last November. He explained that the December consumption figure was expected to drop considerably especially after the price increase during the first week.

"The November consumption was artificially high due to the speculations on the impending increases. People were filling up their tanks," he said. He added that a lower December consumption would mean a stretching of the inventory by at least a few more days. De La Paz said that although they had received suggestions for an increase in inventory to 90 days, a more practical approach to the problem would be to use the limited resource wisely.

Opposition Outlines Proposed Economic Program

HK1101031091 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Jan 91 pp 1, 6

[By Johanna Son]

[Text] A citizens "crisis forum" organized by the opposition yesterday proposed a package of solutions to the economic crisis on the eve of a National Security Council meeting today. The suggestions addressed "fundamental ills" of the economy that would be worsened by a Gulf war, according to Vice President Salvador Laurel, who presided over the Fourth Multisectoral Citizens' Crisis Forum.

"With or without the Gulf crisis, our economy will remain in its present critical condition unless no-nonsense short-term and long-range stabilization measures are implemented," Laurel said. "In our frenzy over the so-called contingency plan, let us not lose sight of these real fundamental problems," he explained.

The forum, attended by some pro-administration senators, businessmen and former Marcos officials, adopted a resolution to be presented to President Aquino. The resolution contained 12 fiscal and five monetary measures designed to help the government put its economic house in order, including the reduction of the budget deficit, privatization and a 30% cut in government bureaucracy.

It also asked the government to suspend interest payments on certain debts and to program principal payments at a rate commensurate to the country's export receipts.

The resolution outlined an austerity program characterized by deferment of capital expenditures, limit to foreign travels and a revenue program that would include assisting exporters and the imposition of windfall-profit taxes on banks. On the monetary side, the forum urged the Central Bank to use its powers to drive down interest rates, because it is the banks that are dictating those terms. Also, it called on the government to rigorously screen the use of foreign exchange for essential commodities, to stop issuing treasury bills and to fix the foreign-exchange rate at a realistic level and then defend it.

ADB Approves $600,000 Irrigation Project Grant

HK0901031191 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 9 Jan 91 p 12

[Text] The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a technical assistance grant of $600,000 to the Philippines for the Kabulnan Irrigation and Area Development Project. The technical assistance will be taken from the Japan Special Fund.

The grant will start an irrigation-based area development project in four municipalities in Maguindanao province, Mindanao, with the aim of increasing income levels of farmers and upgrading social facilities for the population.

Projects likely to ensue from the technical assistance will include: provision of irrigation and drainage facilities for about 14,000 ha. [hectares]; strengthening of agricultural support services facilities covering extension, research/demonstration and marketing; improvement/construction of farm-to-market roads; improvement of social infrastructure such as rural water supply, public health and educational facilities in about 96,000 ha. and provision of environment and watershed protection facilities. The cost of the project is tentatively estimated at $60 million.

The principal executing agency for the grant will be the National Irrigation Administration. The Da [Department of Agriculture], DILG [Department of Interior and Local Government], DPWH [Department of Public Works and Highways], DECS [Department of Education, Culture, and Sports], DOH [Department of Health], DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] will cooperate on the project.

Nine-Percent Import Levy Will Affect Investment

HK0901031991 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 9 Jan 91 pp 1, 6

[By reporter Ma. Liza A. Solano]

[Text] Trade and Industry Undersecretary Tomas I. Alcantara last Monday said the imposition of the 9% import levy may affect the viability of projects approved by the Board of Investments last year. These projects, worth over P100 billion (Philippine pesos], are all expected to be onstream within the next two years.

Mr. Alcantara is also the Board of Investments [BoI] vice-chairman and managing director.

Under Executive Order 226, also known as the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, registered new and expanding enterprises are entitled to tax- and duty-free importation of machinery, equipment and spare parts that will be used exclusively in the manufacture of their products or the operation of their registered activity.

Companies that purchase their equipment locally are given tax credits equivalent to the value of taxes and duties on the product if it were imported.

Mr. Alcantara said the BoI will work for the exemption of BoI-registered companies from payment of the surcharge. He said some firms have already ordered their equipment, believing they would not be paying any taxes and duties.

"This is a clear case of changing the rules midstream," Mr Alcantara said.

Fertilizer Prices

In a related development, Mr. Alcantara yesterday told reporters the imposition of the 9% import levy will also mean an increase in the price of fertilizers by at least 14%.

Mr Alcantara, who is president of the state-owned Philippine Phosphate Fertilizer Corp. (Philphos), also asured the agricultural sector Philphos will continue to supply the domestic market with fertilizers despite the Middle East crisis and difficulties in sourcing foreign exchange.

Mr. Alcantara said the export operations of Philphos provide the company with the foreign exchange needed to import raw materials like phosphate rock and ammonia.

Higher Sales

He reported that total foreign exchange earnings of Philphos last year amounted to $107 million. He expects export sales this year to be even higher at $132 million. Mr. Alcantara said the additional duties on fertilizer and its raw materials will bring up prices by about 14%.

He expressed fears that the higher prices of fertilizer will "affect demand and...eventually result in a corresponding decline in agriculture's output."

He also pointed out that the competitiveness of agricultural exports, such as bananas and pineapples, will likewise be reduced because of higher production costs.

Sensitive

He noted that the demand for fertilizer is sensitive to price changes. He said the production of rice and corn will be particularly affected by the impending increase in prices since these products are heavily dependent on chemical fertilizer.

He estimated that a 14% rise in price could result in a 4% decline in usage of fertilizer by the agricultural sector.

"Philphos, therefore, joins the Department of Agriculture in move to exempt fertilizer from the import levy to provide farmers with lower cost inputs," Mr. Alcantara said. "It will be ironic if we see an increase in the importation of rice in the course of the year due to a reduction in local production that will result from the increase in the price of fertilizer."

"At the end of the day," he added, "we will see that this strategy will cost the country more in terms of higher product cost and higher foreign exchange needs."

As this developed, the Office of the Press Secretary finally released to Palace newsmen copies of Executive Order NO. 443 imposing the 9% across-the-board levy on importations.

Signed by Mrs. Aquino last Friday, the 9% import surcharge is slated to take effect 10 days after its publication in two major newspapers.

Exemptions

It exempts from the additional duty the following articles:

—those conferred by effective international agreements to which the Philippine Government is a signatory;

—those of the diplomatic corps for the official use of foreign embassies under provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code (TCC);

—those of bonded manufacturing and smeltering warehouses under provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1464;

—those of enterprises registered with the Export Processing Zone Authority and the Philippine Veterans Investments and Development Corp; and

—those released under bond pursuant to provisions of the TCC.

Significantly, its length of effectivity extends to June 30, 1992 "unless sooner revoked or modified."

Military, Police To Dismantle Checkpoints

HK1101125191 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] The military and the Philippine National Police [PNP] will dismantle their checkpoints nationwide except those near areas of military operations. This move is in accordance with the joint directive of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the PNP. PNP director General Cesar Nazareno explained that the reason for this is to speed up the flow of basic needs coming from the provinces. Meanwhile, he warned police operatives of severe punishment if this directive is violated.

Thailand

Iraqi Envoy Says No Control Over Terrorism

BK1001123991 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry this morning Iraqi Ambassador Munir Shihab Ahmad paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Athit Urairat and Kopsak Chutikun, the ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, to discuss Thailand's stand toward the Gulf crisis. On this occasion, the Iraqi ambassador told the Thai side that Iraq is a good friend of Thailand's and hopes to further develop cooperation between the two countries. Iraq has no conflicts with Thailand and is not at war with Thailand. This was revealed by Kopsak Chutikun during a news briefing before noon. He said:

[Begin Kopsak recording] The Iraqi ambassador reaffirmed that Iraq is a good friend of Thailand's and hopes to further develop cooperation between the two countries. The Iraqi ambassador affirmed that Iraq has no conflicts with Thailand and is not at war with Thailand. As a result, the Iraqi ambassador said all news reports to the effect that there might be terrorist acts against Thailand as a result of Thailand's declaration of support for the UN resolution are groundless. The Iraqi Ambassador said the Iraqi Government policy does not support any form of terrorism. It is not the policy of the Iraqi Government to support terrorists. However, Iraq cannot control independent groups which might stage acts of terrorism against U.S. targets if war breaks out. But Iraq would like to assure that it will not support acts of terrorism against Thailand or the Thai people because it does not believe there will be any group staging hostile acts against Thailand. He also warned Thailand against any third party that might take the opportunity to carry out activities in Thailand. The Thai police and security authorities have measures to cope with these.

The Iraqi ambassador stressed that no suspicions should be harbored against Iraq because the Iraqi Government understands Thailand's stand well, and also holds that Thailand and Iraq are good friends. Iraq will not support acts of terrorism against Thai interests and any target in Thailand.

The second assurance given by the Iraqi ambassador concerns debt payments to Thai rice exporters. He said that Iraq has strong intentions for the payment of the rice debt, which amounts to about 1,800 million baht, to Thai rice exporters as soon as possible. However, since Iraq is in a situation of tension and cannot transfer the money through the international banking system, it is still unable to pay the debt. So he asked Thai rice merchants to be patient and wait for awhile. Iraq intends to pay the debt, and hopes for further cooperation with Thai rice export firms. Iraq is satsified with past trade cooperation between the two countries. [end recording]

Chatchai Cites 'Sufficient' Oil Reserve Fund

BK1101071391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhwan today said Thailand has a sufficient oil reserve fund and there should not be any problem. The Government will try to handle the issue in a way that will not cause hardship for the people.

In the end, the prime minister remarked that the fighting in the Middle East will not break out, but Thailand still has to be well- prepared.

Labor Officials Leave To Visit Saudi Arabia

BK1101010091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Athit Kamlang-ek will lead a group of 22 labour officials to Saudi Arabia tomorrow to visit Thai workers and help coordinate their evacuation with Thai Embassy officials in case a Gulf war breaks out, Labour Director-General Prasong Rananan said yesterday.

The labour officials will be joined by another batch of equal number in the near future, he added.

Thai workers are still leaving Iraq and Saudi Arabia as the January 15 deadline imposed by the United Nations for Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait approaches, Mr Prasong said, adding that only 40 workers still remain in Iraq.

Two labour officials left Bangkok last night for Israel to help plan their evacuation to Egypt in coordination with Thai Embassy officials. They will remain there for 15 days.

According to the contingency evacuation plan already drawn up, Thai workers remaining in Israel and Jordan will be moved to Egypt while the remainder in Iraq will be evacuated overland to Turkey unless they choose to remain where they are now, Mr Prasong said.

He added that he had instructed the three remaining labour officials in Baghdad to stay put.

The labour chief said he had not received any official confirmation from Riyadh that Saudi Arabia had lifted its re-entry visa ban on Thai workers as earlier claimed by Foreign Minister Athit Urairat.

Japanese Prime Minister Postpones Visit

BK1101142691 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Statement by Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan on his telephone conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the Government House on 11 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu made a telephone call to me, saying that he regretted that he could not visit Thailand at this time. He said that he would write a letter to me later. He said that he would not come to Thailand because of the Gulf crisis. He felt sorry that he could not visit Thailand; nevertheless, he will visit Thailand when he has a chance, if the Gulf crisis is settled. [passage omitted]

Athit Outlines Issues in U.S. Talks

BK1101001691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Jan 91 p B1

[From the "Business Digest" column] [Text] Foreign Minister Athit Urairat plans to include the copyright issue and the Generalized System of Preferences [GSP] in a trade talk package to resolve the aviation dispute with the United States.

He said in Parliament that the attempt to pressure the US to have equal frequencies and capacities on flights to Thailand with Thai Airways International's flights to the US would only hurt the Thai economy.

He said the Foreign Ministry had not been approached by the US for a new round of aviaiton talks. The talks as a package have been informally raised with the Transport and Communications Ministry.

Ministries See Police Role in Copyright Issue

BK1101020191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Jan 91 p B1

[From the "Business Digest" column]

[Text] Four ministries will jointly ask the Police Department to take action against violators of music records and cassettes and video tape copyrights, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Sakthip Krairiksh said the action will demonstrate Thailand's sincerity to crack down on counterfeiters and pave the way for positive negotiations with the US Trade Representative (USTR) on an investigative mission, scheduled for next month.

The US International Intellectual Property Alliance in the US has asked the USTR to impose sanction on Thailand in view of its lack of copyright protection for American music and films.

Foreign Minister's Burmese Policy Supported

BK1101120991 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 10 Jan 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Thailand and Its Policy Toward Burma"]

[Text] General Chatchai Chunhawan's government presented its policy statement to the parliament on Wednesday. Now the government can begin to fully implement its policies in running the country. Although the policies were broadly outlined, there were implications that some policy points will be different from the previous ones, especially foreign policy.

Before the presentation of the government's policy statement, Foreign Minister Athit Urairat said we might review the policy toward our neighbor Burma. This matter has become a subject of discussion among the educated of the country.

Thailand has maintained good relations with the Burmese military government. The benefits that Thailand enjoys extend only to the few groups that trade with the military government. But, Thailand has been affected by the Rangoon military government's preference to use force to brutally suppress pro-democracy people. The effects range from the influx of refugees to the recent hijacking of a Thai airline to Calcutta.

The Burmese Government held a general election in line with democracy last May. But it has refused to accept the results when the National League for Democracy [NLD] won 80 percent of the seats of the National Assembly. Moreover, it has suppressed those politicians, forcing them to form a clandestine government at the Thai border in order to garner external support.

Athit Urairat said that we should adopt a policy that recognizes the existence of the NLD. However, nobody knows how he will be able to execute the policy in a way that will not antagonize the State Law and Order Restoration Council, which represents the military government in Burma.

His new foreign policy toward Burma should be supported. Thailand, at least, has more influence than other countries when it comes to pushing for new developments and compromises in Burma. We have to accept that Burma, which has ignored trade with foreign countries, has little knowledge about international norms. But, it has the special ability of surviving in a deteriorating economy by depending on trade with a few of groups of people in Thailand.

The formulation of a new policy toward Burma will greatly help this neighboring country as far as long-term relations are concerned. The adoption of a position for future cooperation between Thailand and Burma should be based on the settlement of internal problems in Burma through compromise or other non-violent measures. If we can do this, Thailand will be praised not only by the democracy and freedom loving people in Burma but also the international community.

Army Chief Comments on Lao Dispute

BK1001155191 Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai 1230 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Army Commander General Suchinda Khaprayun is on a visit to military personnel along the border. He stressed to the personnel the policy of drastically dealing with any violation of national territory by foreign troops. The amry commander's delegation includes Deputy Army Commander General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Army Chief of Staff General Wirot Saengsanit, and other senior military officers. They presented gifts to the military personnel on the occasion of the new year and visited the personnel along the border under the responsibility of the 2d Army Region at Chong Bok, Nam Yun District of Ubon Ratchathani; Chong Phamalai, Khun Han District of Sisaket Province; and Chong O-bok, Ban Kruat District of Buriram Province. The visit is aimed at giving moral support to the personnel carrying out duties along the border with difficulties. Giving instructions to the personnel, the army commander asked them to be prepared at all times and to study the geography of their areas, which will enable the units to be superior over enemies. However, all personnel must establish good relations with local people so they can help each other.

[Begin Suchinda recording] The Army has instructed all units that we will drastically deal with any violations of territory. We will not remain idle in the face of violations. We have assigned responsibility to all levels so they can carry out their actions immediately without seeking permission from above. [end recording]

The army commander also talked about the border dispute at Ban Romklao, Phitsanulok Province. He said we will probably be able to settle this issue. However, this is a matter of dignity for both sides.

[Begin Suchinda recording] I think both will be able to find a compromise to settle this issue. Laos has tried to invite me to visit the country. I think I may visit Laos in late January or Feburary. Both sides will have to try to find a best solution. This is a misunderstanding of the borderline as each side understands that the area belongs to it. So it will be regarded as losing face if one side agrees to lose something. It is impossible for any side to agree to everything. We must find ways of bringing about a compromise solution for the peace of the neighboring countries. [end recording]

Army Chief on Opening Cambodian Border Points

BK1001004591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun has given the greenlight for more checkpoints along Thai-Cambodian border to be opened to facilitate cross-border trade, an army source told THE NATION yesterday.

The source, who is close to the army chief, said Suchinda made this known on Monday when he visited the Burapha Task Force in Prachin Buri province which borders Cambodia.

The source, who requested anonymity, said the army chief had ordered the task force's senior officers to look for appropriate sites for the new border checkpoints. The task force is in charge of keeping order along Thai-Cambodian border in the eastern province.

The army officer said the task force had to cooperate with the Interior Ministry and the National Security Council (NSC) to find suitable locations for the trading points.

When he visited the force, Suchinda told reporters that he wanted more border trade with Cambodian merchants for the benefit of Thai people there.

This is the first time that the Army has voiced approval to opening more border checkpoints along the Cambodian border. In the past the Army, citing security reasons, has always derailed attempts on the part of the Interior Ministry and the NSC to open up more checkpoints in Prachin Buri.

The source added that Suchinda wanted as many checkpoints as possible along the border since Thai authorities could provide security to traders and were able to stem the flow of contraband and other illegal items such as war weapons and drugs.

While the task force is considering where to open more trading points, a new one is scheduled to be opened in Ban Nong Samet village in Prachin Buri's Ta Phraya district on Sunday, the army officer said.

He said the provincial administration would send officials to inspect whether the checkpoint is ready to be opened as scheduled.

But there has been only lukewarm response from local merchants in the province because the checkpoint is located about 70 kilometres from the province's Aranyaprathet district considered to be centre of the Thai-Cambodian cross border trade.

The merchants said they preferred a new trading point to be in Aranyaprathet or alternatively would like the government to re-open the Ban Khok Sa-baeng checkpoint closed since the beginning of this year.

The checkpoint was closed on the grounds that it borders areas under the control of the Phnom Penh government with which Thailand has no diplomatic relations. Bangkok recognizes the three-faction Cambodian resistance. The NSC has laid down that no checkpoint should be opened in any area bordering that controlled by Heng Samrin troops.

Prime Minister Appoints Five New Committees

BK1001090691 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan has appointed five more new committees to set guidelines for improvements in various fields to correspond with government policy. M.R. Pridiyathon Thawakun, spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office briefed reporters on the appointments at Government House this morning.

[Begin Pridiyathon recording] The main committee is called the Advisory Committee for Administrative Affairs. The others, which are minor ones, are the Committee To Set Guidelines for Development of State Enterprises, the Committee To Set Guidelines for Improvement of the Bureaucratic Role in Development, the Committee To Set Guidlines for Promotion of Public Participation, and the Committee To Set Guidelines for Decentralization of the Administrative Power.

All five of these committees must carry out their respective assignments and submit their reports to the prime minister. Should there be any amendment of rules and regulations or laws, all the preparations must be completed within coming April so that they can be proposed to the parliament in May.

It is the wish of the prime minister to have these matters, which have been left unsolved for several years, worked out within the remaining period of this government.

Meanwhile, with his intention to find ways to improve the present voting system, the prime minister on Tuesday appointed his legal advisory committee, comprised of legal experts, to screen the ideas proposed from various sources in order to amend the Constitution or any other rules and regulations to make the future elections cleaner and fairer. [end recording]

Senate Approves Revoking Press Control Decree 42

BK1101084591 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] A Senate meeting was convened at the National Assembly this morning, with National Assembly President Police Sub-Lieutenant Wan Chansu presiding. The parliament president informed the meeting of a royal decree appointing Lieutenant General Phaibun Hongsinlak, a senator, to fill the vacancy.

After approving the minutes of the previous meeting held in 1990, the Senate considered an urgent item, the royal decree revoking the National Administrative Reform Council's Decree 42. Revocation was approved by the House of Representatives yesterday. After the interior minister explained the reasons for, and necessity of, scrapping the press control bill, the meeting unanimously voted in favor of the decree abrogating Decree 42.

Activities Set To Boost Thai Rice Exports

BK0301140191 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Delegations will be sent to visit major countries that are customers of Thai rice.

The expedition forms the first part of a campaign organized by the Ministry of Commerce to boost competitiveness of Thai rice in the world market.

Under the campaign, buyers will be allowed to purchase rice on credit. All government and semi-state-owned rice-selling agencies will be improved to keep pace with changes in the world market.

The expedition will take place in the early part of this year. And the second part of the program will involve long-term activities in which a rice festival will be organized on the day of the royal ploughing ceremony in May.

Almost 40 buyers from 20 countries and 10 foreign feature writers have been invited to attend the festival. A rice contest will also be arranged in the same month as part of the promotion campaign.

According the Foreign Trade Department's statistics, Thailand exported nearly 4 million tonnes of rice worth 28 billion baht last year.

Vietnam

Admiral Makes Suggestions on Party Documents

BK1001142391 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Dec 90 pp 1,4

["Rear Admiral Le Van Xuan's Suggestions on the Draft Documents of the Seventh Party Congress"]

[Text] The seventh national party congress will discuss and approve documents of historic significance.

As a cadre of the people's transportation forces who has been living and fighting in the naval force and is now faced with the major issues of the party, people, and country, I would like to express some of my reflections on the two strategic tasks in the draft platform for socialist construction in the transitional period.

Since early December, the naval force has organized step-by-step a drive to contribute views to the draft documents of the seventh party congress.

After studying the documents, our first impression was that those issues put forth for public comment are truly problems of life which must be solved to meet the people's aspirations. These issues are very fundamental and strategically significant. They are at the same time specific issues considered as guidance for action. What has pleased me the most is that through a dialectical view and a scientific and accurate analysis, the draft platform has presented the necessity of transitioning to socialism in our country. In an underdeveloped country like ours and at a time when the international situation is undergoing major changes such as the stormy development of technology, socialism is facing many difficulties. Hostile forces are capitalizing on the mistakes and difficulties of socialist countries to launch a counterattack aimed at wiping out socialism. Against such a background, what is the better way for our people to become prosperous and our country to be strong in the last years of the 20th century and the early years of the 21st century?

I for one cannot think of a way other than the one outlined in the draft platform, which is to resolutely build socialism in Vietnam. This is the ideal of socialist revolution chosen by Uncle Ho, the essential path closely linked to the fundamental scope of the time and relevant to the objective developmental law of human society, and the line actually followed and implemented by our party for 60 years and by our country for 45 years. No matter how many difficulties there may be, they can be overcome and the line will be accomplished by all means.

The problem is, how is the present socialist model in our country doing? With a socialist society built according to the five fundamental characteristics specified in the draft platform, the nature of a new socialist society can be manifested and is totally different from the nature of a capitalist society. As a matter of fact, the issues raised in the platform are in line with the people's aspirations and the party's struggle objectives. They constitute the mission of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

In the present situation when new and complex developments are emerging unpredictably, while posing the tasks of building the economy, advancing our entire country to socialism, and making the country strong and prosperous to give all people a free, plentiful, and happy life as the primary duties of our entire party, people, and Army, the draft platform has devoted almost the whole of Chapter IV to national defense and security.

In fact, over the past few years, some people have erroneously thought that only by concentrating our effort on building and developing the economy can peace be maintained and the danger of war checked. Some others have further said that while the country still faces many difficulties and our people still lack food, why do we have to waste money and manpower to build national defense projects along the border and on islands? Furthermore, in building economic projects, some people and some ministries only had in mind the peace-time economy and did not take into account their operational results in war time.

The platform has turned the two issues of building socialism and defending the socialist country—the two strategic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution—into one of the six guiding fundamental principles for the period of transition to socialism in our country. It is obvious that proceeding from a profound analysis of the situation in the country and the world, and from the law of building and defending the country in the 4,000-year history of the nation, the platform has correctly positioned the task of national defense and security in building socialism in our country.

As I have personally worked and fought on the battlefields of the sea, I know that our seas hold huge sources of latent economic potential, strategic resources, and abundant maritime products and are a very convenient line of communications and an important international navigation route directly related to the prosperity of the country and the civilization and happiness of the people.

To enable the national economy to develop quickly and catch up with the overall economic development of the world, with the trend of considering the sea economy a priority guideline, we should concentrate on the sectors which spearhead our economy, such as oil and gas exploitation, petrochemical industry, exploitation and processing of maritime products for export, sea transportation, and so on.

Reflecting on these matters, I am pleased to realize that the strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2,000 should satisfactorily focus on these key issues. Firmly defending the socialist fatherland and regime, national independence, sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of land, sea, air, islands, and continental shelves is mainly to protect economic development and ensure stability and safety for the laboring people to build the country, exploit the country's resources, enrich themselves, and strengthen the country.

The history of our national struggle against foreign aggression has revealed that aggressors have always come from the seas. Today, seas and oceans have become a matter of concern to all countries formulating strategies to stretch out to the oceans. As a result, seas have become strategic directions for defending the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

The draft platform mentioned the combination of the economy with national defense and vice versa. While developing the country's economic forces on the seas, such as relocating the population to islands, building and developing fleets of trawlers and sea transportation ships is also to develop mainly the all-people national defense force and the people's warfare on seas. Each achievement in economic development on the seas also mainly aims to increase the national defense potential on the seas and intensify the all-people national defense strength and the people's warfare on the seas. This is mainly to protect the peaceful labor of our people on the seas and the sea resources and environment, and, at the same time, to prepare our forces for fighting aggressors from the seas. This is mainly to combine the economy closely with national defense and vice versa.

Our seas are long, wide, rich and beautiful. If we protect and concentrate on the spearhead sea economic sectors and if we can tap the potentials of the seas, our country's economy will certainly develop quickly, our people will be rich, and our country will be strong. We must have strength on the seas in order to defend the sovereignty and integrity of the fatherland over the territorial zone that is three times larger than the mainland. We are happy to see that the platform has affirmed: "Defending the country, consolidating the all-people national defense, and building the people's transportation force is the duty of our state and people under the party leadership."

Our strength on the seas is a combined strength in which the people's naval force is the core force. Nevertheless, building a strong naval force requires enormous material and financial investments to build and equip the material and technical bases relevant to the conditions of the national economy. All these issues have been asserted in Chapter IV of the draft platform.

We are convinced that if the platform and other documents to be approved at the seventh national party congress are successfully implemented, our country will certainly develop and become a prosperous socialist country and our people will have a free, plentiful, and happy life.

VFF Contributes Views on Draft Party Documents

BK1001160191 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 29 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Nguyen Thanh Van on a "recent" meeting held by the Vietnam Fatherland Front, VFF, Central Committee to make suggestions for the seventh party congress draft documents]

[Text] The Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee recently organized a meeting to solicit public views on the seventh party congress documents. Attending the meeting were 38 professors, medical doctors, scientific researchers, intellectuals, and religious and social workers in Hanoi.

Comrade Dao Duy Tung attended the meeting and introduced the contents of the draft platform. A representative of the Council of Ministers introduced the contents of the draft strategy.

The Strongpoints and Shortcomings of the Lines

The above subject was the focus of the debates. According to many participants, only a correct platform can help formulate a correct socioeconomic strategy. The objectives of the platform and the strategy are to serve the people. Therefore, it is imperative to base the contents of the documents on this guiding principle. The participants analyzed the concrete issues raised in the platform and gave different views on the lines.

Nguyen Manh Tuan, associate Ph.D., maintained that as far as the national democratic revolution is concerned, thanks to its very correct lines and policies, the party has successfully mobilized the aggregate strength of the nation, and by combining this strength with that of the era, has led the nation to glorious victories. Nonetheless, when shifting to the socialist revolution, we have committed mistakes in formulating the economic development line. These mistakes can be seen through the fact that we have mechanically applied other countries' experiences without taking into account the characteristics and specific conditions of our country. They can also be seen through the fact that we advocated developing heavy industry on a priority basis, whereas ours is an agriculturally backward country. Furthermore, we have resorted to hasty industrial and trade reform measures and have exerted drastic efforts to implement the agricultural reform, while at the same attaching little or no importance to the commodity economy and underestimating the roles of the various economic sectors... indeed, we have committed mistakes in formulating the guidelines governing the most important part of the national economy.

According to Doctor Vu Thi Chin, the party has committed mistakes both in its lines and its strategic leadership. But she maintained that the responsibility rests not only with the central echelon, but with each of us as well. It is the courage to admit one's fault and to resolutely rectify it that counts. She added: It has been mentioned in Chapter Two of the platform that "The basic objective of our era is to shift from capitalism to socialism..." given the fact that socialism is now facing a serious crisis and faced with the truth that a number of socialist countries have ceased to exist, such reasoning lacks the power of persuasion.

Although they did not directly participate in the debates, lawyer Vu Cong Hoa, Pastor Hoang Kim Phuc, Professor Chu Van Tuong, Venerable Bonze Thanh Tu, and others did give their views based on various dialectical grounds and the realities of our country's revolution. They unanimously agreed that thanks to the correctness of the general lines, the Vietnamese revolution has remained unaffected by the complicated developments at home and abroad. Anyway, as pointed out in the assessment and evaluation of the situation, the party has conducted very serious self-criticism, clearly analyzing the causes leading to shortcomings and mistakes and working out measures aimed at overcoming weaknesses to restore the people's trust.

It is Imperative To Attach Due Importance to Educational, Cultural, Social, and Public Healthcare Services

The above issue has triggered the largest number of views. Many participants contended that as far as our people's protracted revolutionary struggle is concerned, not only have the challenges and hardships of that struggle helped forge many heroic generations, but they have also formed numerous talented leaders for the wars of resistance. Thanks to their leadership, our heroic people have ended their struggle in victory and have won the admiration of the entire world. Nevertheless, we have been drunk with victory for too long. The important thing is that, faced with the new situation, we must strive to form "a new generation of heroes." This means that we need to attach due importance to education. At present, education is the "launching pad of society." Professor Van Nhu Cuong said: Everybody is sure of one thing, namely, now and in the coming century science and technology will continue to develop by leaps and bounds and play a decisive role in national and international development. Therefore, it is important to take this factor into account while trying to formulate the platform on socialist construction for the transitional period.

According to the professor, education and training constitute the most fundamental issue. Our educational system is still far from being developed. Children are compelled to learn many unnecessary subjects, and educational motivation among youths is vague. Therefore, they do concentrate on their studies. The quality of students graduated from various colleges or high-level schools is poor. The deterioration of education is a cause of concern for our entire society. If this situation drags on, it will be difficult for us to create new generations of talented people. And as a result, we cannot make "our people prosperous and our country powerful." The spirit of the draft platform still fails to reflect the party's concern over education and science and technology.

For instance, while the platform points out the need "to shape an advanced culture that is imbued with national color," it fails to touch on the need to achieve advanced science and technology. In the "economic strategy, the part dealing with education and science and technology only presents a general outline on these subjects.

Also commenting on the issue of education, Professor Nguy Nhu Cong Tum said: In fact, the education sector has not yet been renovated in terms of substance. I am afraid that it would gradually become a "thing for decoration" rather than a place to create men of talent for the country or to educate and train the younger generations. The party fails to make clear this point in both its draft platform and strategy. Reality shows that as many as 50 percent of graduated students with college or higher education levels are not capable of choosing a career. There are many reasons for the deterioration of education. One of these is the fact that those engaged in educational work (teachers and lecturers) cannot make ends meet and that favorable conditions have not been created for them to perform their duties satisfactorily. Therefore, it is necessary to stress the strategy of human development alongside the strategy of economic development.

When expressing his views on the need to care for and educate the younger generations, Professor Chu Van Tuong (director of the central children insititute) said: Some 51 percent of children are suffering from malnutrition and Vietnamese today are shorter in height and lighter in weight compared with 100 years ago. A newborn baby now weighs only 2.5 kg, against 3 kg in the past. At many nursery schools, especially those in the countryside and workers' residential areas, a daily meal for children includes mainly rice soup with salt or instant noodles. Children, when undergoing medical examination at hospitals, are usually found to be suffering from three or four diseases. Some 90 percent of them suffer from trichinosis or taeniasis and 43 percent from trachoma. One of the causes of the above-mentioned situation is the failure of the public health sector to satisfactorily perform its duties. But the state and society should also be held responsible for this situation.

Orientations and quantitative norms for this domain should also be pointed out clearly in the platform and strategy.

The Party and Its Leadership

In the course of discussion, the participants all stressed the need to firmly maintain political stability. They also admitted that it is necessary for the party to play the leading role, continue the process of renovation, and make clear its leadership and the managerial role of the state. Professor Nguyen Tan Gi Trong said that in the platform, there is the phrase, "The party's leadership is the decisive factor in all victories of the Vietnamese revolution." According to the professor, it should be said that it is the "the purity and stability of the party which constitute the decisive factor." Lawyer Nguyen Thanh Vinh held that due to the present situation in the country and the world, we should establish the people's democratic system first and then work toward building socialism later. A correct political line or strategy is one that makes the people prosperous and the country powerful. As Uncle Ho put it: "Independence of a country would be meaningless if the people of that country could not enjoy an abundant and happy life."

Taking advantage of a break, I asked an senior professor about this viewpoint:

—In your opinion, should our country go ahead with the building of socialism, or should it turn back to establish the people's democratic system before advancing to socialism, as suggested by some people?

With elation, the professor answered:

—It is true that in the present situation, there have been viewpoints that are contrary to those outlined in the draft platform. But in my opinion, the path that has been chosen by our party and people is the right one because it is in line with the trend of development of our times and the aspirations of our people. Nevertheless, it is always difficult to approach the truth for which, at times, we may have to pay a high price for persistence. Vacillation and hesitation at this time will only aggravate the situation. Perhaps the whole matter involves its scope. The political, economic, and social scope set forth in the platform and strategy for national construction during the transitional period, in general, has been agreed upon by everybody. So, what is the difference between these scopes and those of a number of people who propose the establishment of the people's democratic system? The professor also shared the same opinion with many others who were present at this debate.

Visit by Indian Deputy Foreign Minister Summed

BK1001151891 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 10—Indian Deputy Minister for External Affairs [title as received] L.L. Mehrotra paid a working visit to Vietnam from Jan. 6-10.

While here, he compared notes with Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, on bilateral relations, a political solution to the Cambodia issue and regional and international issues of common concern. The Indian deputy minister also exchanged views with Hoang Minh Thang, minister of trade, and Nguyen Vinh Nghiep, mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, on economic cooperation between Vietnam and India in 1991.

In the afternoon of Jan. 9, he was received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi at the Thong Nhat Conference Hall in Ho Chi Minh City. The Vietnamese leader welcomed the visit as a new expression of the traditional friendship between the two countries.

General Vo Nguyen Giap Departs for India

BK1101151891 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, left here today for New Delhi to take part in India's celebrations of the birth centenary of the late Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh.

He was seen off by Vo Van Kiet, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Tran Hoan, minister of culture, information, sports and tourism; Nguyen Dy Nien, chairman of the National Commission for UNESCO and deputy foreign minister.

Indian Charge d'Affaires A.I. Devasirvatham Jesudas Bell was also on hand.

More Generators Needed at Soviet-Aided Project

BK0801153491 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 8—Work [is] being speeded up to install two more generator units at the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power project on the Da River in Ha Son Binh Province.

The third and fourth generator units of the project with a capacity of 240,000 kw each are expected to be put into operation in March and October this year, respectively.

The project is being built with Soviet assistance by the Song Da hydroelectric project building corporation under the Ministry of Construction. Last year it officially put the Hoa Binh Reservoir able to contain ten billion cubic metres into use to prevent the Red River Delta from flood.

The corporation has signed contracts to build five major projects, including the extension of the Selabam hydroelectric power plant in the Province of Champassak in southern Laos. The work which will cost 3.3 million U.S. dollars is expected to [be] complete in 27 months.

Official Says Thailand Training Rebel Groups

BK0901022191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Jan 91 p A4

[By Kawi Chongkhittawon]

[Text] A top Vietnamese leader has accused Thailand of supporting Vietnamese resistance groups with training and arms and called on Thai leaders to settle the problem to maintain friendly relations with his country.

In an interview with THE NATION on Friday, Mai Chi Tho, the Vietnamese interior minister, claimed that anti-Hanoi resistance groups were operating from five bases, one equipped with a radio station, within Thailand.

"They have received military training (in preparation) to intrude into Vietnam via Laos," he charged.

The minister said during his recent visit to Thailand he raised this issue during meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Athit Kamlang-ek and Interior Minister Gen Praman Adireksan.

"The Thai leaders said they would consider the matter," he said.

Although the Vietnamese rebel's activities do not pose any threat to Vietnam's security, Tho said he does not feel good because the Thai-Vietnamese friendship is being hurt by the presence of the resistance camps inside Thailand. "How would Thailand feel if it was in Vietnam's situation?" he asked.

It was not the first time that Vietnam has raised this issue with Thailand. During his visit here last October, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach showed Thai authorities a map which he said showed the locations of the secret bases.

Tho's comment comes as the two countries are preparing for the upcoming summit between Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi. The meeting has been rescheduled for early February.

Tho said the sensitive issue could be included [in] the agenda of the Do Muoi-Chatchai meeting. "(Do Muoi) may or may not raise the question. But he also thinks the presence of those camps in Thailand is an obstacle to our friendship," the minister said.

Thailand has repeatedly denied the allegations and said it has a policy of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs.

During the interview, Tho also dismissed a recent clarification on the issue by the Thai government, which said the information on this problem was old. "I don't think our information is old because we have updated information as well," he said.

Last October the Vietnamese government sentenced 38 people, who allegedly received support from Thai intelligence, on charges of espionage against Vietnam.

Tho said the presence of the camps was an obstacle to be overcome if mutual trust was to develop between the Thai and Vietnamese people.

However, he had positive words to say about Thailand's current policy towards the Vietnamese refugees living in Thailand's northeastern region. But he said that though the Thai government has adopted a more lenient policy towards them than in the past, they still are not receiving the same treatment as other foreigners living in Thailand.

"Nonetheless, I am happy with the current situation about their status, and the issue does not harm our bilateral ties," Tho said.

Security Forces Strive To Combat Corruption

BK0901052491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report from the Political Department of the People's Security Force, in December 1990, the entire force strived to counter corruption in many areas through several measures and by cooperating well with all units.

Many important cases involving high ranking cadres have been prosecuted. There is an initial encouragement—confidence from the public.

The crime rate increased slightly compared with the previous month, but was down 11 percent from the same period last year. The number of economic criminal cases handled this month was 832, up 107 from last month. The number of criminal cases was 2,300, up 154.

The investigation of economic criminal cases has been given more attention, but the percentage of pending cases remains high. The extent of investigation remains limited.

Air Vietnam Crew Arrested in Hanoi for Smuggling

BK0501142991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] According to the central task force committee, on 29 December 1990, the Hanoi economic police intercepted a car bearing license plate number HK5142 and found seven crew members of Flight 919 of the general corporation of Air Vietnam carrying 1.5 billion dong worth of contraband including 13 kilograms of gold, 575 foreign watches, 25 kg of medicine and many other foreign goods such as video cassette recorders and cigarettes.

The police and the Hanoi control agency seized all the smuggled goods and arrested two of the crewmen; Nguyen Duy Soi, the pilot, and Lai Hong Chau, the flight engineer.

The general department of the people's police disclosed that this was the ninth time in the past few months that crew members of Flight 919 have used the state aircraft for smuggling. The general public expects that the general corporation of Air Vietnam and other functional state agencies to deal appropriately with those who have used the state aircraft for smuggling.

'First' AIDS Case Reported in Ho Chi Minh City

BK1001003491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 10 Jan 91

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 9 (AFP)—A southern Vietnamese woman has become the country's first known carrier of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that can lead to AIDS and it seems likely she spread the infection before being diagnosed.

The 30-year-old girl from Ho Chi Minh City was tested by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) early December while trying to emigrate to Australia, an informed source said.

He added that her case had been handed over to the Ministry of Health and the results had been confirmed but the ministry had kept quiet about the issue.

"This is not official but they (the ministry) know," he said.

"This is the first seropositive of HIV," in Vietnam, the source said of the virus that can lead to Acquired

Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)—an incurable disease that destroys the body's immune system.

The source said the lady most likely caught the disease from an old lover—a Vietnamese exile who returned to Ho Chi Minh City from his home in West Germany in 1988 and spent a month with the girl.

"She seems to have been a happy lady who had a Vietnamese boyfriend coming from West Germany," he said, adding: "it seems she has been with many people since."

"We don't know how many more (cases) will be coming out," he said.

Vietnam has steadfastly maintained it is AIDS-free but has set up AIDS combat teams in major cities in the past three years.

Ho Chi Minh City, known as Saigon before 1975, is the most liberated city in Vietnam and prostitutes are easily available to locals and the growing number of foreign visitors.

But southern newspapers have reported that 80 per cent of the prostitutes in the city are drug addicts—regarded as a high risk group for AIDS.

The source said the woman had been planning to emigrate to Australia, where she has a brother, when she was tested by the independent IOM.

The IOM tests blood samples of Vietnamese planning to leave for new homes in the West.

A confidential government document, addressed for the attention of Prime Minister Do Muoi, Vice Premier Vo Van Kiet and Vice Premier Nguyen Khanh and the Vietnam Communist Party Secretariat, said the single lady was tested on December 7.

"The risk of AIDS in Vietnam is very high ... Contamination from the virus in the Vietnamese community is worrying because, according to international statistics when you discover one case of AIDS there are probably 100 more cases," the document said.

Her test was sent to Bangkok for analysis which proved positive and a further test by the Ministry of Health also proved positive, the source said.

The whereabouts of the woman was not known.

The government here takes the problem of aids seriously and has said it must prepare itself for the inevitable.

Drug abuse is also dealt with, though resources are limited, and the government run a drug rehabilitation centre in Hanoi.

Observers, however, have mixed views on the impact of AIDS in Vietnam.

"It's not a big problem in Vietnam for the future because there are not many homosexuals, prostitution is not that big and drug-taking is ... Mostly smoking," one observer said.

But another seasoned observer slammed this view, pointing out that there were reportedly some 50,000 prostitutes in Ho Chi Minh City and 30,000 in Hanoi.

"More and more you see these ladies in (Hanoi dance) clubs ... Then you have to be careful," one resident here said.

Australia

Last 3 Diplomats Leave Baghdad for Jordan

BK1101075391 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Australia's last three diplomats in Iraq are leaving the country. The diplomats have left Baghdad by road for Jordan. They are among the representatives of numerous other countries who are being withdrawn in the lead up to the United Nations deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

However, the Australian embassy in Baghdad is not being closed and Australia will maintain diplomatic relations with Iraq. In the absence of Australian diplomats the embassy will be kept opened by locally employed staff.

Hawke Comments on Departure

BK1001064691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Sydney, Jan 10 (AFP)—The Australian Government will withraw its diplomats from Iraq now there is a "50-50" chance of war, Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Thursday.

Mr. Hawke told reporters after a telephone conversation with U.S. President George Bush that Australia's three remaining diplomats would leave Iraq in the next couple of days.

But diplomatic relations were not being cut and local staff would run the embassy, he said.

"The negative result of the meeting in Geneva must have changed the odds somewhat so I think we're in a 50-50 situation," he said, referring to the chance of war in the wake of failed talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Mr. Hawke said hopes for a peaceful settlement in the Gulf rested with the mission to Baghdad by United Nations General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"There may be some opportunity arising from the possibility of discussions at that level," he said.

Mr. Hawke said Mr. Bush had not sought any increase in Australia's military commitment in the Gulf from three naval ships and some medical personnel.

No Australian troops would go to a war in the Gulf, he said.

"I've made it quite clear there will be no Australian soldiers there," Mr. Hawke said.

Telecom Australia International meanwhile announced that it would move dependents of its advisors working in Saudi Arabia to the relative safety of the Red Sea port of Jeddah.

Telecom said in a statement released in Melbourne that the presence of its workers in Riyadh and other sites—some close to the Kuwaiti and Iraqi borders—"is considered essential at this time."

Telecom, the government telecommunications network, has an 86 million Australian dollar (66 million U.S.) contract to help manage Saudi Arabian telecommunications.

While 161 dependents will be moved to Jeddah, the 105 telecom advisers will stay where they are, mostly in Riyadh, Gerry Tidd, telecom spokesman said.

"Their position is being monitored on a hourly basis," he said. "Decisions will be taken on their future as the situation develops."

Foreign Minister Sees Chance for Gulf Peace

BK1101074391 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Australia's foreign affairs minister, Senator Evans, says he believes there is still a chance for peace in the Persian Gulf. Senator Evans, who has been in London for talks with his British counterpart, Mr. Hurd, says that while the situation is grim, war is not inevitable.

[Begin Evans recording] It sounds, I know, a little odd to be talking in terms of being too early to judge when you are only four days away from a deadline of this magnitude. But in a sense, it is still too early to judge what the final Iraqi reaction is going to be and I will certainly be in a better position to make a further assessment as a result of my talks over the next few days. [end recording]

Senator Evans also reiterated that there were no plans to step up Australia's military involvement in the Gulf.

[Begin Evans recording] We have made it very clear indeed that the contribution we are making is a substantial one—two fighting ships plus a significant medical component on our allied ships in the region—and given the nature of our country, our military capacity, and the nature of our involvement in it, I think it is universally perceived to be a reasonable contribution and one that we don't propose to (?expand). [end recording]

Blewett Rules Out Gulf-Palestinian Link

BK1101092591 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia's acting foreign affairs minister, Dr Neil Blewett, has ruled out a link between the Palestinian problem and the Gulf crisis. More from Richard Andrews in Canberra:

[Begin recording] [Andrews] Despite the UN's call for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, some peace groups claim that linking the pullout to a Middle

East peace conference could be a face saving compromise. It has been argued that Mr Perez De Cuellar has more flexibility to negotiate such a resolution than the United States, which is locked into a position on the issue. However, Australia's acting foreign affairs minister, Dr Blewett, says Palestine and Kuwait must remain separate.

[Blewett] We and most other countries have made it very clear there is not a linkage between these issues. I mean Saddam Husayn did not invade Kuwait in order to do something about Israel. He invaded Kuwait because he wanted the money and resources of Kuwait and he wanted the oil of Kuwait. So, no, we have first said there can be no linkage. There was no linkage in the original intention of Saddam Husayn.

[Andrews] Even if that was a compromise—an alternative to war?

[Blewett] Well, as I say we are opposed, and I think, most nations are opposed to linking them in that way. But, we would look at whatever the United Nations secretary general is able to bring out of any meeting he had with Saddam Husayn, but we have got to recognize that he himself is very tied to the decision of the United Nations which is the unconditional withdrawal of those troops and the reestablishment of a legitimate government.

[Andrews] Dr Blewett was asked for his assessment of the Gulf crisis?

[Blewett] I have got to say that the situation is fairly grim and we cannot be pretending otherwise. There is that very long meeting between Baker and 'Aziz—six and a half hours—so one would have thought that all the possibilities and the solution would have been explored at that very long meeting. I have got to say that unless in the next few days the invading forces are move out of Kuwait, the possibility of the war are very great, indeed. Now, we are making all efforts and I have heard [from] Senator Evans [Australian foreign minister] from London this morning that there are initiatives being taken. We all hope that they will bring a successful result. But the only guarantee now that we would not have a significant international conflict is a decision by the invading forces and there is not doubt who they are—Saddam Husayn to move those troops out of Kuwait.

[Andrews] The acting foreign minister also defended Canberra's much criticized decision not to supply gas masks to the remaining Australian nationals working in the Gulf region.

[Blewett] First of all, we have always made it clear that unless a person is required to stay there for essential reasons, Australians should leave the Gulf area, at least temporarily. That is the first. It would be irresponsible for us to suggest that gas masks are going to be much of a protection against the whole range of weapons that might be used in that area. Secondly, the government's position is that if a firm requires somebody to stay there, and that is the firm's responsibility. Just as our responsibility in relation to our own consular officials or, of course, if a government requires them to stay there, then they should protect them.

One responsibility I think we have, and we accept that, is to make sure that gas masks are commercially available, so if Australians want to stay and we advise against that, they can purchase them. [end recording]

Hawke Accused of 'Hypocrisy' on East Timor

BK1101051091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Canberra, Jan 11 (AFP)—Prominent Australians, led by former Labor Minister Tom Uren, Friday accused the government of "blatant hypocrisy" in not defending East Timorese independence, yet supporting Kuwait's.

In a statement released here, they described Indonesia's 1975 invasion of the former ~~Dutch~~ colony as "illegal and brutal" and a betrayal of international principles. Australia was prepared to defend Kuwait's right to determine its own future with the lives of Australian sailors, but not East Timor's, they said.

Portugues

The group includes Australian Council of Trade Unions President Martin Ferguson, former Liberal Senator Peter Baume and historian Manning Clark. They called on Prime Minister Bob Hawke's labor government to review Australia's recognition of Indonesian rule of East Timor.

It also said Australia should mediate to enable East Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmao to negotiate with Indonesia under the eye of the United Nations without preconditions.

"Anything less is a betrayal of international principles and blatant hypocrisy in light of Australia's stated motivation for its intervention in the Gulf," the group said.

GATT Negotiator on Possible EC Concessions

BK0901092691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Sydney, Jan 9 (AFP)—Australian Trade Negotiations Minister Neal Blewett Wednesday said that the European Community (EC) "may be prepared" to make concessions on agricultural protection and enable a successful outcome of world trade talks to be reached.

"There is now a hint that the EC may be prepared to negotiate on a framework agreement in agriculture," Mr. Blewett told a lunch in Melbourne.

"Recent talk of EC agricultural commissioner Ray MacSharry's 'radical' proposal for reform of the community agricultural policy is also encouraging," Mr. Blewett said.

The Australian minister blamed the EC's refusal to grant concessions on agricultural protection for last month's collapse of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Brussels.

"The Europeans went to Brussels without any commitment to a genuine framework for agricultural negotiations, and with the arrogant expectation that the agricultural issue could be finessed as it had in all previous GATT rounds.

"It was an unusual and unpleasant experience for the EC to find itself completely isolated, losing the propaganda war, unable to convince its own media, let alone the world's, that it was not to blame for the breakdown of the Uruguay round," he said.

"The Community suffered considerable embarrassment of a kind it will not want to bring on itself again.

"For this reason alone, the Brussels meeting was not a waste of time," Mr. Blewett said.

The Brussels meeting was adjourned after the EC refused to negotiate demands by the United States and the Australian-led Cairns Group of agricultural producers that it cut agricultural subsidies.

Trade Minister Hopes for Revival of Uruguay Round

BK1001151091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Australia's trade minister, Dr. Blewett, says he is hoping the stalled Uruguay trade talks can be revived with the European Community giving ground. As Katerina Byers reports, the European Community's refusal to make trade concessions curtailed the latest round of the talks in Brussels leading to the threat of an international trade war.

[Begin Byers recording] Australia leading the Cairns Group was critical of the European stance which Dr. Blewett described as extremely arrogant. He says the international media agreed that (? we must) put pressure on the Europeans. He says the director general of the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] is now holding discussions in the U.S. and Europe in a bid to revive the talks. Dr. Blewett says the Americans need a clear answer on the future of the Uruguay Round by March and the minister concedes that (?he is not) overly confident that they will start up again.

He says if they do not resume there will be a growth in retaliatory trade war between the U.S. and Europe. [end recording]

Farmers Concerned Over European Subsidy Policy

BK0901130091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Australia's wheat farmers say European Community policy of subsidizing wheat crops could destroy the country's wheat industry. Representatives of Australian wheat farmers have been meeting officials of the European Community and the United States in Canberra to discuss the impact of the subsidy policy.

Australian farmers received Australian $58 a ton of wheat, but European crops are subsidized by as much as $275 a ton. Farmers said the Community's subsidy policy could make wheat an unviable crop in Australia destroying one of the country's most important export industries.

Diplomatic Solution Urged in Indonesian Case

BK0801054691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0300 GMT 8 Jan 91

[Text] The federal government has been urged to find a diplomatic solution to the number of Indonesian fishermen being caught in Australian waters. The call comes after stiff jail sentences were given this week to the first of 200 Indonesians charged with fishing illegally in Australian waters.

In an unprecedented move, the magistrate court in Broome jailed several fishermen who were first-time offenders. The skipper of one boat was jailed for 16 months for quarantine breaches and 100 days for fisheries offenses.

Western Australia's fisheries minister, Mr. Gordon Hill, said the problem will continue to esclate until a strong option is taken by the federal government. He said surveillance should be increased offshore and discussions should begin with the Indonesian Government to seek solution to the problem.

New Zealand

Deputy Prime Minister Urges Improved Fiji Ties

BK0901124691 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] New Zealand's deputy prime minister, Mr. Don McKinnon, has dismissed criticism by the Coalition for Democracy in Fiji of his upcoming visit to Fiji. The coalition has alleged that the visit showed a disregard for human rights.

Mr. McKinnon says the visit is the second step towards normalizing relations between his country and Fiji. He said the first was when he met Fiji's interim minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, in Auckland late last year soon after New Zealand's general election. Mr. McKinnon, together with New Zealand's defense minister, Mr. Warren Cooper, and the associate Pacific island affairs minister, Mr. Roger McClay, will visit Fiji this weekend at the start of a Pacific tour.

Mr. McKinnon says he would like to think the two countries could put relations on a more normal and positive footing, adding that he believed relations would improve after Fiji's elections due later this year.

Bank Steps In To Stem Falling Interest Rates

BK1101104191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Wellington, Jan 11 (AFP)—The New Zealand Reserve Bank put the brakes on falling wholesale interest rates Friday.

Short-term rates jumped 0.5 of a percentage point when Reserve Bank Governor Don Brash warned they had fallen too fast with a risk of "re-igniting inflationary pressures" in the economy.

Mr. Brash said the bank would change its liquidity management to force "some retracement" in the rates.

Sharp money market reaction to the unexpected announcement pushed key 90-day bank bill rates up from 12 to 12.5 per cent.

Mr. Brash gave an assurance that the bank's pressure on rates, ending a fall of three per cent since last October, would not jeopardise recent cuts in retail lending rates.

He predicted a gradual down trend in wholesale rates as further evidence emerged that New Zealand was getting inflation and its fiscal deficit under control.

The government's deficit-cutting minibudget on December 19 spurred a wave of bank mortgage cuts.

Papua New Guinea

Government To Allow Australian Aid to Bougainville

BK1001150191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Port Moresby, Jan 10 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea's government will allow Australian aid to reach secessionist Bougainville Island, acting Prime Minister Ted Diro announced Thursday.

Mr. Diro said in a statement that the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) could provide relief to Bougainville, enacting the lifting Friday of the eight-month blockade against the copper- rich island.

In May Port Moresby imposed a blockade on Bougainville and neighbouring Buka when the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) declared independence, only two months after a tenuous ceasefire ended a 16-month conflict which claimed more than 80 lives.

Aid agencies have said there have been 14 confirmed deaths on Bougainville since the government isolated the island and islanders lacked anti-malarial drugs and antibiotic drugs.

Mr. Diro said: "Authorities have been advised of the need to ensure that ACFOA does not in any way frustrate or jeopardise government attempts to restore order on Bougainville."

In September Port Moresby retook BRA-held Buka, at a cost of 20 more lives, and claims to have nearly driven the militants off the island.

"External assistance will be undertaken under existing national government framework of dialogue with the Bougainville leaders including the BRA," Mr. Diro said.

During initial peace talks last year representatives of Bougainville and Port Moresby agreed to hold further peace talks although no dialogue has been resumed.

The government lifted its blockade less than a week after Francis Ona, supreme commander of the BRA, ruled out further peace talks and demanded Port Moresby relax its embargo, and only a day after it barred ACFOA from going to Bougainville.

The secessionist conflict began with landowners seeking compensation against the giant Australian-run copper mine on Bougainville.

Russell Rollason, executive director of ACFOA, said from Canberra that the group was unclear as to the meaning of the conditions the Papua New Guinea Government had imposed.

"It lays down some conditions and exactly what they are is not clear," he said, referring to "framework for restoration of dialogue" between Bougainville and Port Moresby to which Mr. Diro referred.

Australian officials in Port Moresby were holding discussions with the Papua New Guinea Government to clarify any restrictions, he said.

"We will go as soon as we can," Mr. Rollason said. "We have got a tonne of medical supplies ready to go."

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